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Discussion Questions: ***The Book of Flying*** by Keith Miller

1. Were it not for the beauty of the language and the style of the storytelling, would the story still be interesting / a book worth reading?
2. This book seems to try and define art and beauty. What conclusions does it draw about them? Living for them or not? Selling them or not?
3. Was it really so much better to be one of the winged? Why did the wingless revolt cyclically?
4. Each encounter on his journey is told to illustrate a lesson to Pico. What do you think was the point of each one?
5. Both the Rabbit and the Town in the Mountains submerge themselves in books, both to their own detriment.
6. Isolation seems to be a central theme in the novel. What episodes point to that? How does art contribute to it?
7. It seems as if in almost every episode/person Pico meets, something of a sexual nature transpires or is talked about. What is the author trying to say about sex and its nature as it combines with art, loneliness and change?
8. What does Pico learn on his journey to the Book of Flying? Does it give him real wings and if so, how?
9. If SiSi had lived, would the book have changed? Would its message have been different?
10. Why did the author choose to have SiSi die? Given the experiences that changed him, would Pico still have loved her had she lived?

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