

## Discussion Guide: *A Pocketful of Stars*

1. How is Safiya different from her mother? In what ways do they turn out to be similar?
2. Through Aminah's memories, what does Safiya learn about her mother that she never knew?
3. Safiya observes that Elle is "a chameleon" who "changes personalities depending on who she's around." What are some examples of this happening? How does it impact Safiya and others?
4. Compare Safiya's relationship with Elle to the other friendships in the book. How do other characters' friendships help Safiya figure out that she deserves to be treated better by a close friend?
5. Safiya feels guilty for arguing with her mother and for not telling her "I love you." What does her father tell her when Safiya talks to him about this?
6. How does Safiya change throughout the story? What are some examples of moments when she does something she would've been too shy or scared to do before?
7. Aminah's mother tells her that her own story "doesn't have a happy ending." What do you think might've happened in Aminah's mother's earlier life? How might this have shaped her relationship with Aminah?
8. At first, Safiya thinks that if she collects all her mother's memories, she'll be able to win the "game" by waking her mother up. What happens instead? Why do you think this is how the "game" had to end?