

The Pirate of Panther Bay

By SR Staley

(Southern Yellow Pine Publishing, 2014)

Discussion Questions: Ethics & Spirituality

1. How does Isabella's conception of God change through the book?
2. Isabella is forced to confront her own mortality in El Morro. From whom and where does she draw strength? Is this strength spiritual or rooted in relationships?
3. Death and murder are an important sub-theme throughout *The Pirate of Panther Bay*, and Isabella must make critical decisions about life in death throughout the story. Does her decision in the final scenes of the book reflect a changing understanding of death and murder?
4. Juan Carlos and Isabella discuss the ethics of her choice to let Yellow Jacket's quartermaster live. Who was right?
5. How does Isabella's sense of ethics and human life differ from Perez's?
6. Isabella struggles with Christianity throughout the book. What does she learn? What role does Jean-Michel play in her spiritual evolution? What role does Juan Carlos play?
7. Both Juan Carlos and Jean-Michel are Christians. How do they conceive Christianity? How does this compare to Isabella's belief (or skepticism) of God?
8. The Pirate's Code provides a set of ethical guidelines and standard of conduct for pirates. How is this similar or different from broader conceptions of human life and behavior as defined by Judaism, Christianity or Islam? Other faiths?
9. What role does an individual's spirit play in determining the final outcomes in *The Pirate of Panther Bay*?
10. What role does the prophecy play in Isabella's personal journey? Does it strengthen her or weaken her?
11. What spiritual values do you believe underlie the main themes of *The Pirate of Panther Bay*? Are these specific to a particular religious belief? Or are they general enough to be considered secular?
12. Which characters—Jean-Michel, Isabella, Stiles—do you believe exemplifies the ethics of a "typical" pirate in the 17th and 18th centuries?