

## Study Guide to *The Land Has Eyes*

This study guide is provided as an accompaniment to the DVD Secondary School Edition as a utility for promoting a thoughtful analysis of the film and stimulating class discussion. The guide includes some relevant background material and links to Internet resources, including the comprehensive [Rotuma Website](http://www.rotuma.net) at [www.rotuma.net](http://www.rotuma.net).

Topics for analysis and discussion are roughly ordered by those that might best be posed to students prior to viewing the film and those that can be presented to them for class discussion after they have seen the film. Instructors might also wish to use some of the questions, perhaps in modified form, in essay exams.

### Section I: Preparation for viewing *The Land Has Eyes*

1. Go to the film's website at <http://www.thelandhaseyes.com/> and read the synopsis of the story and about the director, Vilsoni Hereniko, who was born and raised on the island of Rotuma, the setting for the film.
2. Find Rotuma on a map of the Pacific (hint: it is at 12 degrees south latitude and 179 degrees west longitude). Many smaller maps do not show Rotuma, but you will find it on a [map of the Pacific Islands](#) on the Internet. [Hint: click on the square above New Zealand and look for Fiji; Rotuma is just north of Fiji.] You can also find some maps of the island on the [Rotuma Website](#), including a [map of the villages on Rotuma](#). Look for Vilsoni Hereniko's home village of Mea, where *The Land Has Eyes* was filmed.
3. Read about [Rotuman culture](#) on the Rotuma Website. Check out the links to various aspects of Rotuman culture, such as the sections on [religion](#), [music](#), and [the economy](#). You might enjoy listening to audio clips of Rotuman music by following the links from the webpage on [Rotuman songs and albums](#).

4. Look at [photos of Rotuma and the Rotuman people](#) on the Rotuma Website to familiarize yourself with the land and seascapes, and the looks of the people.

## **Section II: Guide to discussion after seeing *The Land Has Eyes***

1. What did you like best about the film: the story, the characters, the setting? Why?
2. Which character did you like best? Why? If you were that person how would you have reacted to the challenges he or she faced?
3. What was the film's most memorable scene for you? What was it about that scene that made it especially memorable?
4. Compare this film with others that you have seen about the experiences of a young woman facing challenges as she grew up. In what ways were Viki's experiences like or different from those of other young women you have seen in the movies?
5. What are the most interesting things you have learned about Rotuman culture?
6. Did you have an emotional reaction to the film? If so, how would you describe your feelings?
7. What is your interpretation of the title of the film, *The Land Has Eyes*? In what ways does it relate to the myth of the warrior woman?
8. From the time Europeans first came to Rotuma in 1791, western goods, ideas, and ways of behaving have brought about many changes. Identify conflicts depicted in the film between the old Rotuman ways and western ways. What does the film say about these conflicts and their effects on social life in Rotuma?
9. Of the following relationships, which did you find most appealing? Which did you find least appealing? Which did you find most difficult to understand or empathize with? Explain your answer.
  - a. Viki with her mother, Maurea

- b. Viki with her father, Hapati
- c. Viki with her brother, Pili
- d. Viki with her sister, Hanisi
- e. Viki with Noa
- f. Viki with her teacher
- g. Viki with the warrior woman
- h. Viki with the European magistrate

10. How would you describe the relationship between Viki and Noa?

11. What did you think of the scenes that took place in school?

Compare the similarities and differences between Rotuman schools, as shown in the movie, and the school you are attending.

12. In the classroom the teacher had written on the blackboard, "Only the Hard Workers Deserve Success." What is your opinion of that saying? Do you think it played a role in Viki's getting a scholarship?

13. Was there anything in the film that made you laugh? If so, was funny about it?