

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Dr. Brinkley's Tower by Robert Hough

1. How do you think Señora Azula Mampajo, the town curandera or healer, is viewed by the citizens of Corazón de la Fuente? Do those attitudes change by the end of the story? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. How is the colour green used, with increasing intensity and pervasiveness, in *Dr. Brinkley's Tower*?
3. What is more insidious: the physical effects of the transmission of Radio XER, or the mental and spiritual?
4. Who is the most foolish or gullible character in *Dr. Brinkley's Tower*, and who is the most savvy and resourceful? Who is toughest, perhaps the most hard-hearted? Who is most tender and compassionate? Which character surprised you the most, for good or for bad?
5. Where do the satirical barbs of *Dr. Brinkley's Tower* best hit their marks? Is it with individual human pride, hubris, and folly; collective human pride, hubris, folly, and duplicity in conflict or commerce; the differences and conflicts between men and women . . . or something else entirely?

6. Compare the business acumen and managerial styles of Dr. Brinkley and Madam Félix.
7. Who tells the most damaging lie in *Dr. Brinkley's Tower*?
8. Will Francisco and Violeta live happily ever after? What will strengthen their bond and what might challenge it?
9. Does knowing that Dr. Brinkley is based on a real-life figure change your perception of him? Why or why not?
10. Will Corazon de la Fuente rebuild, or is its future as Nuevo Laredo?