**Reading Questions: “Finding My Daughter’s Roots”**

This essay was published in *Parade Magazine*, which is a weekly publication that gets slipped into Sunday papers all over the country. So the audience is that segment of the population that reads a Sunday paper and reads the “human interest” stories, as well as the news.

1. Like many Americans, Helen has a dual identity: she is an American, but she also, to some degree, belongs to the country of her birth. How does her mother, the writer here, show us both sides? Which of Helen’s characteristics and/or attitudes seem American? Which link her to Ethiopia?
2. Consider the elements of a personal essay: description, characterization, action, dialogue. How do these elements operate here? What details stood out for you when reading this?
3. The strongest appeal here is pathos. How does the writer appeal to the readers’ emotions? What “typical” American values does she try to tap into? Is there anything in this story that some people might find offensive or objectionable? (Consider not just Americans but also Ethiopians or other Africans who might read this.)
4. How does this story relate to “A Single Lucid Moment”?