



GENERAL QUESTIONS (FOR ALL SERIES BOOKS)

As readers consider these questions, they may wish to review key passages and/or concepts from the book as noted below and identified by page number(s) when applicable.



1. Is there a scene in this book that describes a racially-motivated incident, policy, or set of social norms (positive, negative, or ambiguous) that reminds you of a similar racial reality today? What is it? Does this happen to the same racial/ethnic group as in the book, or different ones (if others, which)? How does seeing history repeat itself affect how you think about America? Do you think race relations are getting better over time in this country or just changing without much improvement?

MOMENTS TO CONSIDER FROM THE TEXT:

- **COATES:** Man telling Coates “I could have you arrested!” (94-5); murdered black boy (112-3); Prince Jones’s death
- **CHARLEYBOY/LEATHERDALE:** Indian residential schools (30-1) and the children separated from their parents at the U.S. border and placed in facilities around the U.S.; stereotypes from media (Pocahontas, 43); re-appropriating own people’s style as fashion (50-3); poverty and finding richness in life anyway (62-3)
- **ELLIOTT:** slavery and trafficking, especially of women; families torn apart



- **MANZANO:** Young Lords trying to clean the streets, then protesting that garbage is not collected regularly by putting it in the middle of the street and burning it (73, 75-6); people afraid of change-makers, even in the communities they try to help (104); poor families immigrate to send money home (109-10); police intervention in equality movements (114-5); poor people being fed and cared for through social movements (Angel, 152, 185-6)
- **RODRIGUEZ:** Luis's Mama being told "You don't belong here! This is not your country!" soon after arriving (19); white police racism (67); police beatings and shootings (Miguel Robles, 201-2; Luis defending Licha, 226-7); white people who listen and help (restaurant owner, 144-5; Maureen Murphy, 221); gang violence and drug sales within racial communities (Lomas/Sangra — Rodriguez addresses in epilogue, 250)
- **YANG/LIEW:** Chinese-on-Chinese violence and gang warfare (49-53, 67); immigrants reduced to poverty and crime (123-4); racist stereotypes and white actors playing people of color in entertainment (102, 117); lack of justice and racism from the police (68, 118)

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2. Find a moment when a character in this book looks to the past in order to find a way to move forward. How does understanding the history of one's family, community, or racial/ethnic group help this character make powerful choices about how to shape the future? Are there ever times when knowledge about the past can hold people back? What is the effect of learning about the histories of racial/ethnic groups other than your own?

MOMENTS TO CONSIDER FROM THE TEXT:

- **COATES:** Malcom X (34-6); black history reading (43-8); breaking all the dreams and myths (about whiteness as well as Africa — 52-6)
- **CHARLEYBOY/LEATHERDALE:** Knockwood learning about herself by asking her mother about her own people's religion and practices during a vacation from the residential school that oppressed her Indian identity (30-1); Maracle getting sober to share the Sun



Dance with her mother, feeling connection stronger than a drug (76-7); Louie Gong putting traditional Northwest Salish designs on shoes and launching a business (84-5); artists inspired by Native cultures (95)

- **ELLIOTT:** Aduke meeting Yemoja at the end, joining her (death?)
- **MANZANO:** Evelyn learns about the massacre of Nationalist protestors in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and her grandfather's role in it (78-80; 86-9); her mother's memories of being abandoned when Abuela was away taking part in various movements (129-30)
- **RODRIGUEZ:** Luis and Esme learn folklórico dance techniques to create a dignified performance for "Joe and Josephine Aztec," the school mascots, and win, changing the representation of Aztecs at school (174-6); Luis learns about workers' struggles across racial divides and throughout history, learns never to disdain his parents' labor (184-5); Luis uses pre-Colombian motifs with street images for murals that mark and transform the neighborhood, book from Chente (200-1)
- **YANG/LIEW:** Hank finds out that his father was a great fighter who gave it up to stop drinking, to have a quiet life and family; "sometimes a fight you cannot win is still worth fighting" (83-4)

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3. In every time and situation, there are many diverse roles for people to play in the struggle for racial justice and/or healing. Identify three or more different approaches to working towards positive change in this book. Who does what kind of work? How do gender, age, economic situation, physical ability, personality, and other considerations influence the roles that people take on? What considerations would influence how or whether you would want to take part in social action?

MOMENTS TO CONSIDER FROM THE TEXT:

- **COATES:** Civil rights activists (30-2, 34-6); professors at Howard (53-5); girl with dreads and queer family at Howard (58-61); Coates's journalism (83-4 and throughout); mother of murdered black boy turned activist (113)



- **CHARLEYBOY/LEATHERDALE:** young people in Idle No More (102-4); artists like Jeffrey Veregge (106-9), chef Robe (110-11), and youth whose work appears in the book
- **ELLIOTT:** the girl (Aduke) pretending to like Olu's attention to get information (24); the male warrior from her village fighting; the women caring for each other
- **MANZANO:** Abuela, Young Lords, Evelyn, and her friends taking part in sweeping, protesting, collecting items for the community (68, 70, 121-3); Mami and Papi, who care for Evelyn above all (193-4, 198); Mami helping the community (163, 169, 178, 184); poet (160-2)
- **RODRIGUEZ:** Luis and Esme as activists at school and in the community; Luis as a gang member attempting to foster peace between Lomas and Sangra; Chente and Mrs. Baez as teachers, mentors, friends; the study group who commits to freeing their minds (184-5); mothers who work and support their families through everything (23); white people who listen and advocate for equality (Maureen Murphy, 221)
- **YANG/LIEW:** Hank as a superhero seeking justice for his father; Hank's mother, a busybody but inspiring her son to dream big; Detective Lawful when he admits that he was racist and wants to be better (118, 148)