

BOOK 1

Flight by Sherman Alexie

1. What do you think about Justice? Why would Alexie give that name to someone who gives Zits guns, and tells him to use them? What is the relationship between justice and violence?
2. On page 31, Zits talks about how the Ghost Dance promised to bring the past back: "if the Indians danced this dance long enough, all the dead Indians would return and the white people would disappear." Why would Justice like this story and see it as a justification to shoot people in the bank?
3. On page 53, a white character is asked to shoot an already-dead Indian, and on page 73, Indians stab already-dead US soldiers. Why would they do such a thing? Is it vengeance? Does it make sense? Why would someone keep trying to fight someone who is already gone? Why would they keep trying to hurt someone after there's no chance of the outcome changing?
4. Zits begins his journey by shooting without remorse. On page 106, he is unable to shoot, even in self-defense. What has

BOOK 2

***Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation* by Octavia Butler, adapted by Damian Duffy, illustrated by John Jennings**

1. On page 10, Dana tells us that the “trouble started long before June 9th. . .” When did the trouble start? In what ways are we walking around not realizing what sort of trouble produced us? How do we wind up paying for the bad choices of others, some of whom we may never even have met?
2. Often time travel novels revolve around the need to somehow save the present. (Think about *The Terminator*, *Days of Future Past*, etc.) Do you think that’s possible here? Why or why not?
3. Dana hopes that she will be able to influence Rufus into being a better man than his father. Do you think this is possible? What would it take to make this possible?
4. Kevin, Dana’s husband, wants to empathize with her fate, and does what he can to help. Would you say that he succeeds in empathizing with her? Why or why not? Does he feel her pain? Why or why not? What does it take to feel the pain of someone else? What gets in the way?
5. Dana hopes that she might be able to make Rufus respect her because she had saved his life so many times. Does it work? What enables him to forget about what he owes her?
6. Who would you say that Dana empathizes with more — Rufus or Alice? What evidence do you have for your assertion? Who does she help more, Rufus or Alice? If there is a disconnect between her feelings and her actions, how would you explain this? Can you imagine other situations in which we are crueler to those who we feel closer to than to others?

***Stuck in Neutral* by Terry Trueman (additional text)**

- 1.** Terry Trueman has said that he wrote this book “to make us care about kids like Shawn.” Does it work? Why or why not?
- 2.** Is the father a villain? Why or why not?
- 3.** Does the father consider himself a villain? How does he feel about himself? How does he feel (or think he feels) about Shawn? Do you agree with him?
- 4.** Read the passage on page 52 (very end of chapter eight) about Shawn and his dad sharing the trait of having double-jointed thumbs. Why do you think that Shawn’s dad feels closer to him when they are showing off this similarity? Is it easier to feel connected to someone who reminds us of ourselves?
- 5.** What are the differences in what Shawn sees as valuable and what the father sees as valuable? How do we (especially those in authority) come to think about some ways of living as more valuable than others?
- 6.** Read the passage on page 86, where the bullies try to burn Shawn. Who do you identify with? Shawn? His brother? What would you have done in this situation? What do you make of Shawn’s response to the incident? To his brother’s?
- 7.** The father justifies his actions out of love, out of a desire to save Shawn suffering. Do you believe him? How is love being defined here?
- 8.** If you had to give advice to Shawn, what would it be? If you had to give advice to the father, what would it be? How could this situation be made better for both?

MARCH: Book Three by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell (additional text)

- 1.** What do you see as the reasons why John Lewis and his compatriots felt it was important to remain nonviolent? What happens when you refuse to strike back? How might it be effective? How does it work in the book?
- 2.** Why does LBJ get so upset when Fannie Lou Hammer is giving her testimony? What does he think will happen? Similarly, what happens when the images get out of that woman's face? How does this incident compare with other instances in which one person is confronted with someone else's pain?
- 3.** Does the testimony or the footage of the beatings (like Annie Lee Cooper's on page 165) change minds? Does it change the