

N. D. JONES

Discussion Questions Inspired by the Worlds, Characters, & Themes in N. D. Jones' Black Speculative Fiction



Designed for book clubs, classrooms, library groups, and individual readers exploring the themes woven throughout N. D. Jones' Black speculative fiction.

PURPOSE

Use these guiding questions to spark thoughtful discussions across N. D. Jones' body of work. Whether exploring reimagined histories, Black liberatory futures, magical systems, or emotionally rich character arcs, these prompts help readers uncover the shared themes and transformative journeys that shape her Black speculative fiction.

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Theme, Legacy & Ancestry

- How do ancestral memories, legacies, or spiritual inheritances influence the protagonist's choices?
 - a. What does the story suggest about the power—and responsibility—of knowing where you come from?
- Which generational wounds or generational strengths drive the narrative?
 - a. How do characters confront or heal them?
- How is history (real or reimagined) reshaped or reclaimed in the story?
 - a. What truth or healing emerges from this reimagining?



Character, Power & Identity

- Every protagonist in N. D. Jones' fiction must learn to understand, accept, or control their power.
 - a. What internal conflicts shape the character's relationship with that power?
- How does the story explore the tension between who a character is and who they are expected to be?
 - b. Who challenges or reinforces that identity?
- What personal transformation does the protagonist undergo, and what forces—emotional, magical, or historical—drive it?

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Community, Connection & Responsibility

- How does community—family, found family, or cultural lineage—support or complicate the protagonist’s journey?
- In many of N. D. Jones’ stories, characters navigate the balance between personal desire and collective responsibility.
 - Where does that conflict appear in this story?
- Which relationships (romantic, familial, political, or supernatural) most significantly shape the protagonist’s path?
 - How do these relationships reflect broader themes of connection or liberation?



Morality, Justice & Liberation

- How does the story challenge traditional notions of justice, freedom, or moral choice?
 - a. What hard decisions does the protagonist face, and what values guide them?
- Where does resistance appear—subtly or overtly—in the narrative?
 - a. How does the story frame resistance as necessary, costly, or transformative?
- What does the antagonist represent beyond themselves—an ideology, a system, a fear, a historical force?

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Worldbuilding, Magic & Speculation

- How does the supernatural or magical system reflect the culture, history, or emotional truths of the characters?
- What elements of the world (technology, magic, politics, mythology) reinforce the story's themes?
- If the story blends the real world with speculative elements, how does that blending deepen the emotional or cultural impact?



Reflection & Resonance

- What part of the story stayed with you the most—an idea, a character, a moment—and why?
- How does the book invite you to reconsider your understanding of history, identity, family, community, or freedom?
- What new questions or curiosities did the story spark for you about the world or about yourself?



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