

The Parker Inheritance

By Varian Johnson

When Candice researches her grandmother's story, she learns some things that upset her. What do people accuse her grandmother of being, and doing? What seems "off" about the whole thing to Candice, and why?

This book time shifts back and forth to tell a story that has its roots in the past. Sometimes we're in the present with Candice and Brandon, sometimes in the past with the Washingtons. How do these two halves of the same story inform and enrich each other?

One of the themes of the book is we hear what we want to hear, we see what we want to see. How does this apply to Abigail's decision to leave the puzzle-solving to Candice?

At several points in the book, a distinction is made between seeking revenge and seeking justice. How do you define the difference between these two things?

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The issue of racial identity is complex and nuanced. In this book, the author explores the idea that African Americans who could "pass" as white had options during the Jim Crow era that other African Americans did not have, but that "passing" came at a great cost. Explain the choice Reggie faces, why he chooses what he does, and what it costs him. Did Reggie make the right choice? Draw your own conclusion, citing evidence from the text.

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