

***If You Come Softly* by Jacqueline Woodson**  
**Chapter Questions**

**Chapters 1-2**

1. How do you think Ellie's relationship with her mom would be if her mom had never left?
2. What do you think of how Ellie calls her name by her first name? Do you think that is respectful or disrespectful to her mother?
3. Think about a time you called one of your parents by their first name. Did they think it was okay?

**Chapters 3-6**

1. What do you think about interracial relationships? Why?
2. If you were Anne what would you think/say about Miah and Ellie?
3. Are you allowed to date? Why/why not?

**Chapters 7-10**

1. Would you ever have an interracial relationship? Why/why not?
2. How do you think Carlton will take Miah and Ellie?

**Chapters 11-12**

1. Describe your feelings when you read that Miah and Ellie kissed.
2. Talk about a time when things were so perfect, you wanted time to stop.

**Chapters 13-14**

1. If you were in Ellie's position would you tell people that you liked an African American boy? Why/ why not?
2. Compare and contrast Ellie and Miah's relationship to a relationship you've had.

**Chapters 15-22**

1. How do you think Ellie thinks about Miah's parents being so famous?
2. Why do you think Miah's mom likes Ellie so much?

**Chapters 23-24**

1. What do you think happened to Miah?
2. What do you think Ellie will do now that Miah is gone?
3. Do you think Ellie and Miah's families will be friends? Why or why not?

**Chapters 25-26**

1. Describe how you think going to a school without Miah effected Ellie's life.
2. Talk about a time when you've had a good friendship with your friends parents or siblings.

## **Chapters 1-6**

- 1.What's your first impression on Elisha?
- 2.Do you think it is odd to call your mom by her name?
- 3.What do you think Jeremiah's parents divorced living across the street?
- 4.Why was Elisha afraid (on page 49-50) when the phone rang?
- 5.Would you ever date or “like” a person with a different race?

## **Chapters 6-10**

- 1.Then Elisha bumped into “the black guy,” how do you think she felt?
- 2.Why do you think Jeremiah sat next to Elisha?
- 3.Why did Elisha right “Ellie” as her name?
- 4.Why do you think that Carlton is so into basketball, and why is he with them?
- 5.Why do you think that Ellie keeps worrying about Anne?

## **Chapters 10-14**

- 1.Do you think it was weird how Miah asked to kiss Ellie?
- 2.Why do you think that Miah's dad never went camping with Miah?
- 3.How can Miah tell Ellie is easy to read?
- 4.Why do you think they opened up to each other?
- 5.How do you feel about Miah and Ellie skipping class?

## **Chapters 14-20**

- 1.Why do you think Miah's dad is going to LA without him?
- 2.Why do you think Miah and Ellie aren't telling their parents about each other?
- 3.Why do you think Miah's dad said not to run in “white neighborhoods”?
- 4.Why do you think Ellie's mom wasn't as mad at Ellie as it sounded when Ellie skipped a class?
- 5.Why do you think that Miah said, “That would tear me up inside to see Ellie crying and how it was because of me”?

## **Chapters 20-26**

- 1.Do you think that Miah and Ellie's relationship is moving kind of fast?
- 2.Do you think foreshadowing was used? If so, give some examples.
- 3.What bird is Ellie talking about on page 176?
- 4.What questions do you want to be answered about the ending.
- 5.How do you feel about how the story ended?

### **Other Titles by Jacqueline Woodson (Available in the LHS Library)**

*Locomotion, Behind You, After Tupac and D Foster, Behind You, Beneath a Meth Moon: an elegy, The Notebooks of Melanin and Son, The House You Pass on the Way, Hush, I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This, Last Summer With Maizon, Maizon at Blue Hill, Miracle's Boys, and Peace Locomotion*