

BLACK BROTHER, BLACK BROTHER

JEWELL PARKER RHODES



BOOK CLUB GUIDE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Donte and Trey have a strong brotherly bond. How do they make space for one another? How do they include each other?
2. How do Donte and Trey's friends support them? What specific actions do they take to make Donte and Trey feel safer and more included at school? What do you think it means to be an ally?
3. How do people react to Trey and his dad compared to Donte and his mom?
4. Fencing is described as an elite sport. What barriers make fencing difficult for more people to get involved in?
5. Coach eventually reveals his personal history with fencing to Donte. How do these revelations about Coach's past affect Donte's decisions in the present? How does Donte benefit from having Coach as a role model?
6. How does Donte change as he learns to fence? In what ways does he begin to think differently?
7. Donte remarks that he's "got to be careful" walking around his neighborhood (p. 33). Why does Donte think this? How does this awareness affect his interactions with authority figures like his headmaster and the police?
8. The Middlefield Prep school motto is *non nobis solum*, which the headmaster translates as "not for ourselves alone" (p. 194). Do you think Middlefield lives up to this motto? How so?
9. Zarra tells Donte about the Alexandre Dumas biography *The Black Count*. How do the stories we are told impact how we view the world? Does history always show us the full story?
10. Through training, Donte discovers that fencing is a sport based on rules and etiquette. How can you apply the rules of fencing, namely "courage, honor, integrity, and chivalry," to your everyday life (p. 189)?