

## Book Club Questions for *Bending the Arc*

1. The names of the book's main characters, Luke and Finn, have some traditional meanings, among them "light" and "white" respectively. Thoughts on this?
2. The author has tried to include a variety of both black and white characters and experiences in this book, but the author himself is white. How successful or unsuccessful do you think he was in portraying a range of realistic black experiences?
3. What did you think of Jamal and his role in the story?
4. What character did you dislike most and why?
5. What did the relationship between James and Maggie mean to you?
6. The cabin and lake are recurring settings in the book. Do you also see them as symbols? If so, what might their significance be?
7. Similarly, the two kayaks appear several times in the story. What did they mean to you?
8. Was there anything in Finn's evolving behavior that gave you hope? Did he ever come to understand the depth of the damage he and his cohorts were inflicting upon society, or was he irredeemable, forever lost in his own self-pity and anger?
9. Is there any particular scene in which Luke seems to find some closure regarding Finn? If so, what did that closure entail?
10. The child Raza never speaks or has a direct role in the story. What do you think his indirect role(s) might be?
11. What meaning might you attach to the presence of Elsa's daughter, Sam, particularly at the end of the book?
12. What impact did Jennifer's character have on your experience of the story?
13. Is there anyone in the book who reminds you of yourself in some way? Or of someone else?
14. What did you take away from this story related to despair or hope? How does this perspective relate to what you see in the real world today?
15. Did this book change you in any way? What feelings or emotions did it evoke?