



1. When was the first time you realized that clothes are never just clothes?
2. What is your favorite outfit ever and why?
3. Do you think African Americans are more likely to be pre-judged based on attire?
4. Why do you think this book is called a “love letter”?
5. Tanisha discusses how her factory town shaped what people wore. What look was popular in your hometown?
6. In chapter three, “Jheri Curl,” Tanisha tells of being made fun of by her classmates because of her new hairstyle. What is your most embarrassing school memory?
7. Much of the book is about the mother-daughter bond. Could you relate to Tanisha’s relationship with her mother? Why? Why not?
8. In chapter six, “Coochie Cutters,” Tanisha discusses how black girls are seen as more physically developed and more sexually promiscuous (aka “fast”) than their white peers in the same clothes, and are thus more likely to be policed for their clothing choices. Have you seen examples of this in your own life?
9. In chapter one, “Dashiki,” and again in chapter eight, “Bamboo Earrings,” Tanisha discusses the importance of naming in the black community. Why do you think nameplate jewelry was/is so popular?

*Discussion  
Questions*



10. In chapter ten, "Hoodie," Tanisha describes the different meanings associated with hooded sweatshirts. What do you think of when you see someone in a hoodie?
11. What is the most expensive garment or accessory you've ever purchased? Why were you willing to spend that much money on one item?
12. Did this book make you think differently about cultural appropriation (the unacknowledged adoption and/or misuse of the cultural practices of minorities by people in dominant groups)?