



Discussion questions for *The World According to Fannie Davis*

by Bridgett M. Davis

1. How do you think Bridgett being the youngest member of her family shaped her relationship with her parents and siblings?
2. Bridgett's parents left Tennessee to make a better life for themselves and their family in Detroit. But once they arrived in Detroit, they learned that life in the North wasn't necessarily better or easier. Did this surprise you?

3. Broadstreet, the Davis home in Detroit, is a haven for the family as well as the community Fannie cultivates, but in order to buy the home Fannie had to navigate both redlining and predatory lending. Discuss this contradiction. (Is it a contradiction or an irony?)
4. Throughout the book Bridgett and her family experience racially motivated microaggressions, such as her teacher demanding she count the number of shoes she owned or the store clerk asking Fannie for an ID to confirm her credit card. Have you experienced or witnessed a microaggression? Discuss.
5. Discuss how the Numbers not only helped finance many aspects of Detroit's Black society, but also how the Numbers created a sense of community.
6. In what ways did assumptions around who played the Numbers change when Michigan made their own state-sanctioned lottery?
7. Bridgett struggles to keep the secret of her mother's business because she is proud of what her mother has accomplished, yet worried about people judging her. Have you ever had to keep a difficult secret out of love for a family member?
8. Bridgett's description of the Detroit "riots" of 1967 and the National Guard's presence in her neighborhood is reminiscent of recent Black Lives Matter protests. What, if anything, has changed since then?
9. One of the main themes of the book is Bridgett's discovery of just how much her mother endured and sacrificed for her children. As an adult, did you learn about any sacrifices your parents made for you that you didn't know about as a child? Discuss.
10. Bridgett treasured both of her parents but her unique relationship to them evolved over the course of her young life. In what way has your relationship to your parents evolved?

Bonus question: What are your lucky numbers?