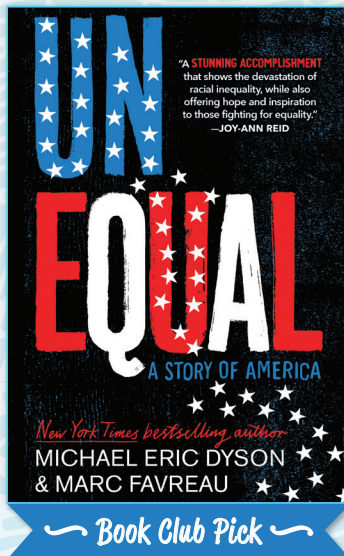


NOVL BOOK CLUB GUIDE

UNEQUAL

MICHAEL ERIC DYSON & MARC FAVREAU



PRAISE

“We are the fruit of generations who demanded a more equal America. Read *Unequal* to learn their stories—and our own.”

—Common

“A vital perspective on race in America. A *stunning* accomplishment.”

—Joy-Ann Reid

“Illuminates how racial inequality is built into every aspect of American Society.”

—Robin DiAngelo

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In their Note to Readers, Michael Eric Dyson and Marc Favreau start by saying that “there are many people who do not want you to read” this book (p. xi). Why would people not want you to read a book? Who controls the narrative of history?
2. Reconstruction has been viewed as a second American Revolution. How did people respond to the changes brought about during Reconstruction? How do those responses, both physical and legal, echo through the decades that follow?
3. John W. Brown notes that “anything that was public was also white” (p.8). Historically, how have white people used the law to limit Black people’s ability to own property and exist in public spaces? In what different ways have Black people challenged those restrictions? How can the law be used to both restrict and expand equality?
4. For many years, the Tulsa massacre was left out of history books in the state of Oklahoma. How do historians counteract attempts to erase the truth of events? Why do firsthand accounts of historical events matter?
5. Ida B. Wells utilized the power of the press to shine a light on the violence of lynch mobs. How can the media be used both for and against the struggles for freedom? What is the responsibility of journalists and media institutions reporting on current events and their historical context?
6. How has the right to vote been suppressed throughout American history? Conversely, how have activists worked to make voting more inclusive? Why does voting matter locally and nationally?
7. What role do racial policing, police brutality, and mass incarceration play in maintaining white supremacy? Do you think it’s possible to improve a corrupt system?
8. Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term “intersectionality” as a way to discuss the ways in which “race and gender discrimination intersected” (p. 75). How have Black women navigated these unique and intersecting discriminations? What other intersections contribute to the ways people experience inequality?
9. How have hypotheticals, strawman arguments, and coded language been used to stoke fear and racist policies? How do you see these tactics still being used today?
10. Many of the racial inequalities discussed in *Unequal* persist today in some form as “history’s unfinished business” (p. xii). How do Black people and their allies continue to combat these inequalities? How does the present build on the past? How can you work towards a more equal America?