

ESL Book Club 2022 – Book 4 Discussion Questions

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

Discussion Date: May 6, 2022 at 10:30 am – 12 pm

1. This book is peppered with cultural icons of the 1960s. As you read, jot down a couple of book titles, TV shows or celebrities that you recognize.
2. Describe the family in this book. Why are the three sisters flying to California?

Cassius Clay Clouds:

3. Who is Cassius Clay? How is he like the clouds?

Secret Agent Mother:

4. What do you think of Cecile? Why do you think she was so unwelcoming to the girls?

Green Stucco House, Mean Lady Ming & Collect Call

5. What were some things that surprised the girls about their mother's house?

For the People & Glass of Water

6. What did the girls learn about Cecile by playing spy?

Inseparable & Breakfast Program

7. Who is Miss Patty Cake? Why did Cecile disapprove of her? Why did Crazy Kelvin disapprove of her? Why was she important to Fern?

Even the Earth is a Revolutionary

8. What is a 'revolutionary'? Do the people in this chapter match your image of a revolutionary?

Crazy Mother Mountain

9. Why do you think Cecile changed her name to Nzila? What was the story behind Fern's name? Is it better to give a child a unique name or a name that others will recognize and know how to spell?

Counting and Skimming

10. Who was Huey Newton? Big Ma said he belonged in prison but he was celebrated as a hero in the Black Panther newspaper. Why the difference?

Expert Colored Counting

11. The sisters counted how many “colored” actors they saw on TV. Why was that important to them?

Rally for Bobby

12. Who was Bobby? Why was there going to be a rally? Why didn't Delphine want to participate? Do you agree or disagree with Delphine?

Eating Crow

13. What does it mean to “eat crow”? What caused Delphine to eat crow?

Wish We Had a Camera

14. Where did the girls go for their Saturday adventure? What were some things that they saw? What souvenirs did they buy?

The Clark Sisters

15. Why did the girls lie to the police when Cecile was arrested?

Stores of No Sayers

16. Why were the children distributing flyers? How successful were they?

The Third Thing

17. Why were the sisters worried that their mother would not like how they recited her poem? What did Fern do after their performance?

Be Eleven

18. What did Cecile reveal about her life history? How did that make Delphine feel?

19. In the 1960s, the Black Panthers were often portrayed as a very militant organization. How does this book portray them? Which portrayal do you think is more accurate?