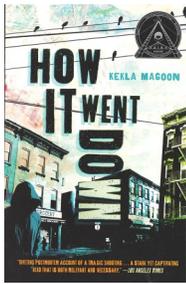


Books by the Stack



How It Went Down by Kekla Magoon

When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson is shot to death, his community is thrown into an uproar because Tariq was black and the shooter, Jack Franklin, is white, and in the aftermath everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events agree.

Why you'll like it: Unforgettable, unique storytelling, timely

About the Author: Kekla Magoon is a writer, editor, speaker, and educator. She is the author of *Camo Girl*, *37 Things I Love* (in *No Particular Order*), *How It Went Down*, and numerous non-fiction titles for the education market. Her book, *The Rock and the River*, won the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award. She also leads writing workshops for youth and adults and is the co-editor of *YA and Children's Literature* for *Hunger Mountain*, the arts journal of Vermont College. (Bowker Author Biography)

Questions for Discussion

1. Describe the neighborhood in which Tariq and his family live. How does the neighborhood play a role in Tariq's death?
2. What issues does Noodle have with Tariq? What is Noodle's reaction to Tariq's death? How does Tariq's death affect Noodle's relationship with Jennica?
3. Why is it important for Will (aka eMZee) to lead a double life? Who is Will trying to make happy? How does his tagging help him?
4. How does Vernesha, Tariq's mother, show strength in the face of Tariq's death? What does she mean when she says, "Anger would be more bearable than this sorrow"?
5. Why is Brick so intent of Tyrell joining the gang? What methods does Brick use to harass Tyrell?
6. Why does Jennica accept \$100 to talk to reporters? How does Noodle feel about Jennica talking to the press? What is ironic about Noodle's reaction based on what he does when Brick asks him to?
7. Why does Brian Trellis think Tariq is dead because of him? What role does Brian play in Tariq's death?
8. What misconception does Kimberly have about Reverend Sloan? How does Reverend Sloan tempt Kimberly?
9. What is Tina's reaction to Tariq's death? How does she help save his reputation? How does Tyrell help Tina free herself of some of her grief?
10. How does Will's stepfather, Steve, finally begin to understand Will's need to stay connected to Underhill?
11. Why does Tyrell visit Junior in jail? What does Tyrell learn that helps him make a decision about joining

the Kings?

12. How does Jennica begin to put her life back together after she breaks up with Noodle? What role does Tariq's death play in changing her life?

(Questions provided by publisher)



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