

Books by the Stack



The First Part Last by Angela Johnson

Bobby's a classic urban teenager. He's restless. He's impulsive. But the thing that makes him different is this: He's going to be a father. His girlfriend, Nia, is pregnant, and their lives are about to change forever.

Why you'll like it: Social Issues. Teen Parenting. Heartfelt. Realistic.

About the Author: More than 40 books later, Johnson is not only a writer, but an award-winning author who is hailed as a leading voice. From moving picture books that celebrate African-American families, history and relationships to stirring young adult novels, Johnson's stories touch readers in ways that endure. Rich with memorable characters, lyricism and meaning, Johnson transports us to new places and keeps us there by exploring the threads that connect us.

Questions for Discussion

1. What challenges did Bobby face as a teen father? What challenges would he face in the future?
2. Do you think the adults in Bobby's life offered enough support to Bobby after he decided to keep Feather? Provide examples of responses you thought were supportive and helpful and responses you thought were not helpful.
3. Why As the narrator of the book, Bobby said, "I walk to my room, put Feather in her crib, which pisses her off and makes her scream, and then I look around my room and miss me." What do you think Bobby meant by this?
4. How did Nia feel about being pregnant and becoming a mother?
5. Do you think Bobby made the right decision when he decided to keep his baby? Why or why not?
6. The author flips between the present and the past. Did this technique work well for this book? Why or why not?
7. Predict what happens to this family ten years into the future. Explain why.

(Questions issued by MPPL)

