Between the Lines by Claudia Whitsitt

Discussion Questions p. 1-99

**Chapter 2:**

1. Why did Hattie’s mother want the television to stay turned off?

**Chapter 3:**

1. Both white people and “colored” people were rioting. Why do you think the riots would only make the “colored” people look bad (as Hattie’s father said)?
2. Why does Mary’s family feel like they have to move of the neighborhood now too?

**Chapter 4:**

1. Why does Hattie think Colleen will stop playing with her?
2. What do Hattie and Beverly Jo have in common?

**Chapter 5:**

1. Why is “Crackers” so different from anyone Hattie has ever met?
2. Do you think the diversity found in public school will be good for Hattie? Why?

**Chapter 6:**

1. Why was playing the hand-clapping game with Beverly a big moment for Hattie?
2. Do you think being called names bothers Beverly, even though she doesn’t show it?

**Chapter 7:**

1. Do you think Hattie’s mother is prejudiced, or is she actually happy her daughter has made a friend who’s “colored”?

**Chapter 9:**

1. How are Hattie, Crackers, and Beverly alike?

**Chapter 10:**

1. Do you think Hattie’s mother could change her mind about Beverly?
2. Do you think Hattie’s mother’s advice “ignore bullies and they’ll go away” actually works? Why?

Discussion Questions p. 101-194

**Chapter 13:**

1. Hattie says people call out the windows as she, Crackers, and Beverly walk home for lunch. Do you think they were actually happy to see them together? Why or why not?

**Chapter 14:**

1. Do you think Hattie’s mother is really just trying to protect her daughter by not wanting her to be friends with Beverly?

**Chapter 15:**

1. Why do you think Mrs. Simmons wrote that note she had Beverly deliver to Mrs. Mason?

**Chapter 17:**

1. Hattie says Crackers is “full of contradictions.” (p. 135) What does she mean?

**Chapter 18:**

1. What are “Civil Rights”?

**Chapter 19:**

1. What is Hattie’s “calling”?

**Chapter 20:**

1. How does writing help Hattie to work through her thoughts and problems?

**Chapter 21:**

1. Does Beverly’s house match what Hattie thought it might look like?

**Chapter 22:**

1. Do you agree with what Hattie’s grandmother said to Hattie’s mother?

**Chapter 23:**

1. Why is Hattie so worried about Crackers? Do you think she needs to be?

Discussion Questions p. 195-298

**Chapter 24:**

1. How do you think music could help to end bigotry?
2. What kinds of things to black folks have to deal with in Detroit at this time?
3. Do you think Hattie’s mother was lying to her about talking to Beverly’s mom?

**Chapter 25:**

1. The Temptations are a popular band at this time. Why might this be surprising given the time period?

**Chapter 26:**

1. Do you agree with Crackers that, “If you’re not brave enough to fight the rules, nothing will ever change”?

**Chapter 27:**

1. Do you agree with Hattie that “treating people the same is the secret of life”?

**Chapter 29:**

1. Do you think it was okay for Hattie to lie to her mom? Why or why not?

**Chapter 30:**

1. How did the fight strengthen the friendship between Hattie, Crackers, and Beverly?

**Chapter 31:**

1. What kind of fights does Hattie’s grandma want Hattie to get into?
2. Why are the girls excited about the punishment they received?

**Chapter 32:**

1. What point do you think the Dream Girls are trying to prove with their experiment?

**Chapter 35:**

1. Do you think Hattie will inspire people like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did?