

Discussion Questions

1. Did you read the Book or watch the Film? How did you first react to the book/film upon watching it? What quote or quotes by Baldwin stood out to you the most?

Discussion Questions

2. Baldwin argues that any conversation about the 'Negro in America' is really simply a conversation about America, and that attempting to silo race not only hinders us from improving race relations, but also undermines growth for our society as a whole. How does this theory relate to the contemporary conversation about race in America?

Discussion Questions

3. What does it mean to be a witness? How is the role of witness in history different from the roles of others – such as perpetrators, victims, bystanders or allies? What are the responsibilities of a witness, and why is it important that there be witnesses?

Discussion Questions

4. In comparing archival footage from the 1950s and 1960s with footage of police violence shot contemporary with the film's release some 60 years later, director Raoul Peck seems to argue that the quality of life for most African Americans has not increased much since the dawn of the civil rights movement. How do you feel about this?