



# MALCOLM AND ME

Philly native Roberta Forest is a precocious rebel with the soul of a poet. The thirteen-year-old is young, gifted, black, and Catholic—although she’s uncertain about the Catholic part after she calls Thomas Jefferson a hypocrite for enslaving people and her nun responds with a racist insult. Their ensuing fight makes Roberta question God and the important adults in her life, all of whom seem to see truth as gray when Roberta believes it’s black or white.

## Discussion Questions

1. How would you answer the question Sister Elizabeth asked Robert in chapter one?
2. In what ways did the “Autobiography of Malcolm X” serve as a guide for Roberta?
3. There are several phrases repeated throughout the novel by different characters. Why do you think that happens? Which is your favorite and why?
4. What was the biggest surprise in the book for you?
5. Is Roberta more like her father or her mother and in what ways?
6. Do you think Sister Elizabeth was sorry for what she said and did to Roberta?
7. Name three themes or lessons explored in the novel.
8. Several times Roberta thinks about a short story involving a teen waiting at a traffic light. What does the story mean to her?
9. What would you ask Sister Elizabeth?
10. Roberta was a teen in the 1970s. How is being a teen today different?
11. What’s the biggest mistake Roberta made?
12. What do you think of the book cover?
13. What did Roberta mean when she said she believed in God but not religion?
14. Why did Roberta decide to go to a Catholic high school?
15. Describe the relationship between Charles and Roberta.
16. What lessons did Roberta learn?
17. How did Roberta grow in empathy and tact?
18. Which characters did you like and dislike the most?
19. How original and unique was this book?
20. Who would you cast in the movie version?