

## THE HIGH DESERT: GRAPHIC NOVEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What comes to mind when you think of PUNK? Can you name any bands or fashions from punk culture?:

Do you think music can be political? Has music ever changed the world? Any song examples?:

WHAT ARE SOME PROBLEMS EACH CHARACTER FACES:



JAMES

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MELOODY

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TY

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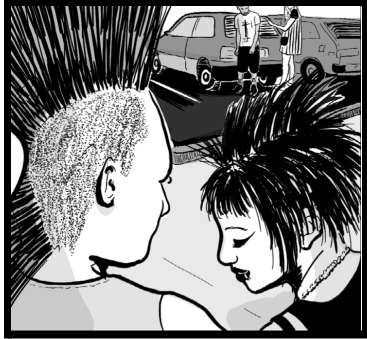
CYNTHIA

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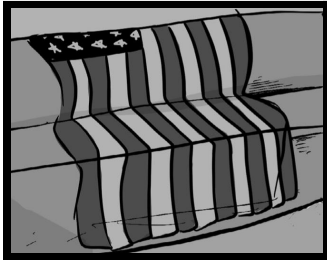


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WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU LEARNED ABOUT PUNK CULTURE?



THE STORY TAKES PLACE IN 1990. ARE THERE ANY POLITICAL ISSUES THAT STILL SEEM RELEVANT TODAY?



WHAT MUSIC HISTORY DID YOU COME AWAY WITH?



WHAT DOES INTERSECTIONAL POLITICS MEAN? CAN YOU THINK OF EXAMPLES WHERE PEOPLES' STRUGGLES OVERLAP?



WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF THINGS WE CAN DO D.I.Y.?  
WITHOUT CORPORATIONS OR GATEKEEPERS CALLING  
THE SHOTS?

Uhhh . . . SO WHAT WOULD BE THE NAME OF YOUR PUNK BAND!?

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## ESSAY TOPICS:

What is the history of people of color in punk bands?

How does punk fashion and music align with its politics?

What are the tenets of DIY and some popular examples from punk history and within the book?

How is James caught between different worlds?

What are some of the conflicts within the punk scene?

Which women have the greatest impact on James' life?

Which friends have the greatest impact on James' life?

How does James' family dynamics play out in the book?

Why would James go on to create Afro-Punk? Were there barriers he was trying to break--for who?

What is the evolution of James and Ty's friendship?

How does punk evolve for James from the beginning to the end of the book?

How does racism and feelings of inferiority play out in the book?