

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits are available to library patrons for use by home and community discussion groups, as well as teachers in the classroom setting. Each kit contains a set of thirty identical soft-cover books accompanied by a book discussion guide. The guides feature information about the author, reviews of the book, discussion questions, suggested further readings, and other pertinent information. Each kit is packaged in a canvas tote bag and may be borrowed for six weeks.

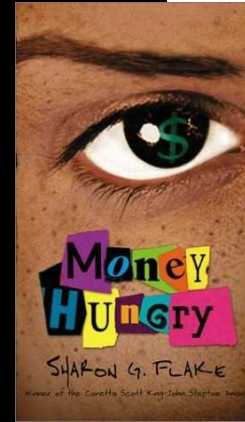
Young Adult Book Discussion Kits may be reserved and sent to the library branch of your choice for pick up. If you would like to reserve a kit, please stop by your local library branch or call **574-1611**. The kits may also be reserved through our website www.lfpl.org. A list of all the kits may be found at www.lfpl.org/teenpages/bookkits.htm



Children's & Young Adult Services
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Information for this flyer was partially gathered from the following resources:

<http://www.sharongflake.com/>



A Reader's Guide to
Young Adult Book
Discussion Kit
Money Hungry
By Sharon G. Flake

Xtreme Reads
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**Young Adult Book
Discussion Kits**



Raspberry Hill tries to sell just about anything—pencils, candy, and even her lunch—to her friends just to make a few bucks. She is constantly coming up with new schemes to make money, and dragging her friends into them. They usually don't work out, and her friends are losing their patience. Why does she need the money so badly? Raspberry and her mother used to be homeless, and the idea of going back to that lifestyle is very frightening to 13-year old Raspberry. She is building her own nest egg, just in case she and her mother find themselves homeless again.

About the Author

Sharon G. Flake grew up in North Philadelphia, an area with its share of poverty and crime. Her childhood home, however, was loving and strong: in her close-knit family, the six kids were tended by determined parents who are still married after 57 years. For the past 27 years, Flake, a single mother, has made her home in Pittsburgh, Pa., where she attended college and raised her daughter Brittney, 18. "I'm an inner-city person," she explains. "I want to be close to a museum. I want to be close to a park. It's a mixed neighborhood, but I also want to be close to people who look like me."

Sharon G. Flake exploded onto the literary scene as a virtual unknown with *The Skin I'm In*, in 1998, and was named a Publishers Weekly Flying Start Author to Watch. It was an inspirational novel meant for her darker-skinned daughter, and also won the Coretta Scott King Award, a prize given annually to an African-American children's author. Since then she has been hailed as the voice of the middle-grade youth and a Rising Star by *Bulletin*. Her books are a catalyst for opening up dialogue on issues affecting today's teens and motivating reluctant readers to explore the joys of reading.

What the Critics Say...

"Sharon Flake raises important issues about self-awareness for African Americans and leaves readers with a sense of hope."

-- Diane Roback, children's-book editor at *Publishers Weekly*

Awards and Recognition

- Starred review in Booklist magazine
- New York Public Library Top Ten Book for the Teen Age
- Named an LA Times Recommended Book for Teens
- Coretta Scott King Honor Award

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Raspberry and her friends all want money for different reasons. Compare and contrast these reasons. Are they all equally important?
- 2) Raspberry and her friends each seem to have their own share of problems. Zora's parents are recently divorced, Ja'nae's mother abandoned her, and Mai is embarrassed of her family. Do you relate to Raspberry or any of her friends? If so, which friend and why?
- 3) Raspberry's friends become tired of her money schemes, and begin to call her "greedy". Do you really think she is selfish? What other words might you use to describe her instead?
- 4) Raspberry gets teased by classmates making fun of her situation. Have you ever been teased, and how did this make you feel? How did you handle it?
- 5) Although Raspberry and her mother do not have much, they have each other. What lesson does this teach you about family? What do you think about money after reading this story?

- 6) Do you know of or have you seen anyone living in poverty? What are ways you could help those less fortunate than yourself?

Suggested Titles for Further Reading

Begging for Change
by Sharon G. Flake (YT)

The Skin I'm In
by Sharon G. Flake (YT)

Who am I Without Him?: Short Stories about Girls and the Boys in their Lives
by Sharon G. Flake (YP)

Bang!
by Sharon G. Flake (YT)

Darkness Before Dawn
by Sharon M. Draper (YP)

Like Sisters on the Homefront
by Rita Williams-Garcia (YT)