



## Strivers Row

By Kevin Baker  
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### Questions for Discussion

1. Why does Malcolm want to come to Harlem?
2. Why does Malcolm feel at such a loss from so much in his life?
3. Does Malcolm feel worse because he is allowed halfway into the white world all around him, without ever being completely accepted?
4. Do you think that the white people who advise Malcolm on his future are trying to help or hinder him? Do they fully understand their own motives?
5. What appeals to Malcolm about the doctrines of the Nation of Islam?
6. What are the parallels between Malcolm's life, and that of Elijah Poole?
7. What do Malcolm and Jonah Dove have in common?
8. Why does Jonah feel so unable to fill his father's shoes at the New Jerusalem?
9. What role does the church play in the black community?
10. What does Jonah envy about his sister's life, passing as a white woman?
11. Why is Jonah so pessimistic about the future?
12. What does the bull who assaults Jonah's taxi cab represent?
13. What makes Jonah return to his life, and his responsibilities?
14. Why does Sophia want to go on passing as white?
15. Why do Jonah's white college friends scorn him after they discover his deception?
16. Why is the black community of Harlem becoming steadily more angry as the war progresses?
17. What is it about the Nation of Islam's doctrines that attracts Elijah Poole?
18. What do you think happened to Wallace D. Fard?
19. What are the parallels between the comic books Malcolm is reading, contemporary events, and the Nation of Islam's version of world history?
20. What are the parallels between the doctrines of the Nation of Islam and Marcus Garvey's "Back to Africa" movement?
21. What do the Collyer brothers represent in the context of the novel?