

thumped

by MEGAN McCAFFERTY

Book
Club
Pick!



About the Book

In a future where a virus has made everyone over the age of eighteen infertile, teen girls have become an invaluable commodity for conceiving and giving birth to children. Now Harmony and Melody, sixteen-year-old identical twin sisters separated at birth, are each due to deliver twins . . . on the same day! As the sisters struggle with questions of belonging, responsibility, freedom, fame, romance, and sisterhood, their every move is analyzed by millions of fans eagerly counting down to D4 (Double Double Due Date). Harmony and Melody are two of the most powerful girls on the planet, but can they do the one thing that would make them even more famous—tell the truth?

Discussion Questions

1. In the world of *Thumped*, pregnant teens are celebrities and their bumps are trendy accessories. Which groups of people in our world do you think have surprising or unearned celebrity status, and what things are inexplicably fashionable?
2. Melody thinks, “Marketers find our story irresistible” (p. 14). What about the sisters’ story sells? What about any good story sells? Why is “story” useful for marketing and selling products or ideas?
3. Why does Harmony cut and dye her hair? Why does she insist on using the dye and scissors herself instead of having Jondoe help her? What purpose does this physical transformation serve for Harmony? What does it symbolize?
4. Do you agree with Jondoe when he says, “When you bond with someone in a heart and soul sort of way, you *should* be able to bond physically too” (p. 17)? Should sex always be accompanied by love? Should it only be used for procreation?
5. What is Phantom Grandparent Syndrome? Why does it exist in the *Thumped* world? Does anything similar to it exist in our world?
6. Describe Harmony and Jondoe’s relationship. Then describe Melody and Zen’s relationship. Do you approve of each sister’s romantic choice? Why or why not?
7. How do the media and marketers distort reality in *Thumped*? How do they do so in our world?
8. Why does Melody start proclaiming, “Baby!” (p. 263)? Why don’t the people in the world of *Thumped* use the “B-word”? What power does it convey, and why might society not want to use it?
9. Why do the Jaydens forgive Melody? How can forgiveness trump anger?
10. How does Melody go from being unwilling to be a “pro-prophylactic icon” (p. 208) to standing up on behalf of the girls of her generation, prepared to “start saying things that are worth hearing” (p. 273)? What drives her to speak out? Consider Ram and his own public announcement.
11. Describe Melody and Harmony’s bond as sisters. How does Melody’s thought of “I promise to support her, whatever she decides. Because that’s what sisters do” (p. 276) represent a dramatic change from where she started in *Bumped*? How is unqualified support, regardless of personal opinion, an avowal of love?
12. Can you relate to what Melody thinks: “My parents are who they are. I can’t change them. I can only change myself” (p. 281)? Why or why not?
13. Harmony asks the Jaydens, “Do you have God?” (p. 285). Why is belief important to Harmony, and how does she manage to “have God” outside of Goodside?
14. How does the novel satirize our own teen pregnancy–obsessed culture? What sly winks does Megan McCafferty offer as commentary about the media, celebrity, teen idols, and sex?
15. Reread the epigraphs that open the four parts of *Thumped*. What is their significance to the novel, both as Bible verses and as sayings themselves?
16. How is the portrayal of teen pregnancy in *Thumped* different from how you view it? How is it similar?