

Discussion Prompts for *Black Leather Jacket*

1. Jamal decided to stay in Chicago instead of returning home to Gary. Do you think he made the right decision? Explain.
2. What did you know about the Black Panther Party before reading the book?
3. Police brutality, health care, and food insecurity are three areas of concern addressed by the Black Panther Party in the book. What topics of concern would the Black Panthers address if they were around in the community today?
4. “If all oppressed people stood together there would be a shift in power and resources.” Do you agree with Jamal’s thinking? Explain.
5. What did Jamal learn about himself as a result of his first-hand experience as a Black Panther?
6. *Black Leather Jacket* only briefly detailed the mission of the Black Panther Party. What are some questions that can help you learn even more about the Black Panther Party?
7. Jamal traveled back in history to experience life as a young member of the Black Panther Party. If you could travel back through history for one day only, which era would you choose to experience? What role would you play?
8. If you could interview the author about this book, what are some questions you would ask during the interview?