

Reading Group Guide for  
*Soft Power for the Journey: The Life of a STEM Trailblazer*

Now that you have read *Soft Power for the Journey: The Life of a STEM Trailblazer*, consider these questions for enabling book club discussion:

1. What do you think is the author's soft power? How has she leveraged it in her journey?
2. Describe the author's childhood. Was it an asset or a hindrance?
3. How did the author's HBCU experience help her in graduate school? Her career? In life?
4. What are your thoughts regarding the funerals described by the author?
5. What is one of the author's strengths? How can you be inspired by this?
6. What is one of the author's weaknesses? What can you learn from this?
7. How did the author leverage her support system (mentors, family, friends)? How did this impact her life and career?
8. Were there times when the author should have been more assertive? Why or why not?
9. Describe how the power of love impacted the author's life? What can you learn from this?
10. What are your thoughts about the author's decision to keep some of her reactions to the graduate school professor, the colleague who took her to dinner about the IBM Academy, etc. from others for decades?
11. Describe one of the challenging incidents in the author's life and how she handled it. What can you learn from it?
12. Have you had experiences like that of the author in your life? Please share one and how you handled it.
13. Having read *Soft Power for the Journey*, what is your understanding of the life of a trailblazer? How did she demonstrate perseverance?
14. What is the take-away from the author's life that encourages and inspires you for the future?