

Book Club Discussion Guide



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia, Page 1 (May 2022)

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky

By Kwame Mbalia

About the author:

Kwame is a husband, father, writer, a New York Times bestselling author, and a former pharmaceutical metrologist in that order. His debut middle-grade novel, *TRISTAN STRONG PUNCHES A HOLE IN THE SKY* was awarded a Coretta Scott King Author Honor, and it—along with the sequels *TRISTAN STRONG DESTROYS THE WORLD* and *TRISTAN STRONG KEEPS PUNCHING*, out October 5th—is published by Rick Riordan Presents/Disney-Hyperion. He is the co-author of *LAST GATE OF THE EMPEROR* with Prince Joel Makonnen, from Scholastic Books, and the editor of the #1 New York Times bestselling anthology *BLACK BOY JOY*, published by Delacourte Press. A Howard University graduate and a Midwesterner now in North Carolina, he survives on Dad jokes and Cheezits.

Source: Author's website: (<https://www.kwamembalia.com/>)

About this book:

Best-selling author Rick Riordan presents Kwame Mbalia's epic fantasy, a middle grade American Gods set in a richly-imagined world populated with African American folk heroes and West African gods.

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Source: Author's website: (<https://www.kwamembalia.com/>)

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you enjoy about this book?
2. What have you read that is similar to this book?
3. What are some of the major themes of this book?
4. What do you think the author was trying to accomplish with this novel?
5. Who was your favorite character? What did you appreciate about him/her?
6. Think about one of the minor characters in the story. Why did the author include him/her?
7. Is the setting of the story important to the book? In what ways?
8. Are you satisfied with the ending? Why or why not?
9. Have you ever experienced anything similar to the action of this novel?
10. Did you find this book a quick read? Why or why not?
11. What were your concerns about this book?
12. What scene do you remember best? Why do you think that is?
13. If this book was made into a movie, who would you cast in the title roles?

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14. If the book you are discussing has chapter titles, take a second look. Why do you think the author selected those titles? Are they hints to what's going to come in the chapter? Are there any that didn't make sense?

Source: Multnomah County Library (<https://multcolib.org/talk-it-book-groups-kids>)