

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOU SHOULD SEE ME IN A CROWN BY LEAH JOHNSON

"You Should See Me In a Crown" starts out with a James Baldwin quote - "The place in which I'll fit will not exist until I make it." How did you see that quote play out throughout the book? Why do you think that Leah Johnson picked that quote to start out the book? Was it effective?

Liz's town is obsessed with prom. Did you think that their obsession with prom and the campaign for prom queen was realistic, or was it overblown for dramatic effect? What activities have you seen schools go over-the-top with?

The Campbell Confidential social media site figures prominently into this book. What did you think about the use of social media in this book? Do you think it was used for good, bad, or some of both?

Liz and her friend Gabi have a falling-out during the book. What did you think of the way Gabi acted? Did you understand where she was coming from?



Liz keeps a lot of secrets from people during the book - the fact that she didn't get a scholarship, her relationship with Mack, the fact that she is running for prom queen. Why do you think that Liz keeps so many secrets? Do you understand her motivations?

"You Should See Me In a Crown" takes place in Indiana (and was written by a Hoosier author!). What about the book rang true to your experiences in the Hoosier state?

If you were making a film adaptation of "You Should See Me In a Crown," who would you cast in the main roles?



## **READ-ALIKES**

*Dumplin' by Julie Murphy* - Similar to running for prom queen in "You Should See Me In A Crown," the main character is an unexpected choice for a beauty queen in this funny, characterdriven teen book.

The Henna Wars by Adiba Jaigirdar - If you liked the romance between competitors in "You Should See Me In a Crown," you might enjoy this love story about a teen's crush on another girl as they compete as henna artists.

The Summer of Jordi Perez and the Best Burger in Los Angeles by Amy Spalding - If you were struck by the way that the main character in "You Should See Me In a Crown" battled traditional beauty standards, you should try this feel-good book about a teen designing plus sized clothing.

*If It Makes You Happy by Claire Kann* - Similar to Liz in "You Should See Me In a Crown," the main character in this book works to find her most authentic self, this time after an unexpected pageant win.



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