**“The Snitch”**

**Reader’s Response**

pp. 3-33

1. What do we learn about Julia and her personality in the first scene?
2. Describe Julia's home life and her relationship with her father.
3. In what ways do gangs affect Julia's daily life? How does Julia deal with the popularity of gangs at her school?

pp. 34-66

4. Analyze Julia's friendship with Black Chuck. Why do you think they are such good friends despite their differences?
5. What are Julia's expectations for the party? In what ways does Eric fulfill (or not fulfill) those expectations?

pp. 67-104

6. Identify at least two new things Julia learns about Eric in these chapters. Why is she so impressed by him?
7. Contrast Q's relationship with her mom with Julia's relationship with her father.

pp. 104-146

8. In the chapters Jumped In and Low, why does Julia feel betrayed by both Eric and Black Chuck?
9. What important decision does Julia make at the Lava Lounge? What would you have done if you were in her place?
10. What do you predict after reading page 129?
11. Why does Julia come to accept Eric as a gang member? How do you feel about her change of heart?

pp. 147-185

12. What happened in the locker room and what is your reaction to it?
13. How does Q react to what happened to Julia? Does this surprise you? In her position, what would you have done?
14. Why does Julia decide to join? What factors were key in influencing her decision?

pp. 186-217

15. Identify several ways in which Julia's life changes after she has joined the Crips.
16. What does Julia learn about the gang's activities? How does she deal with it?
17. What are some ways in which Eric proves himself to the gang in these chapters?

pp. 218-251

18. How does Julia handle Marie's threats?
19. What startling information does Julia discover while researching gangs?
20. Describe Julia's encounter with Scrap. Why doesn't she tell anyone about it?

pp. 252-297

21. What shocking news does Julia receive when she returns from the game?
22. What does Julia think of Black Chuck's accusation that Eric is a snitch?
23. How do the Crips treat Julia at school?
24. Summarize Eric's reasons for doing what he did.
25. How does Julia bargain her way out of being jumped out officially?

**Discussion Questions or Essay Topics:**

1. The use of first-person narrative allows readers to put themselves in the place of the main character. How well did you identify with Julia throughout this book? Were there times when you found her decisions difficult to relate to? Explain your answer.
2. Discuss the relationship between Julia and either Q, Black Chuck, or Tony DiVino.
3. Examine Julia's relationship with the Crips throughout the novel. How does her view of them evolve over time?
4. Discuss the impact of Julia's family life on her decisions. Do you think she would have made different decisions if her mother had been alive, or if her father had been more attentive?
5. Discuss the character: Q. Did your feelings about her change throughout the book? Explain your answer.
6. Compare the conflicts Julia faces in this book to conflicts that you have faced. How was your situation similar or different to Julia's?
7. At one point, Julia describes her world as Livin' in the Gray (p. 222). What do you think she means by this? In what ways can you relate to this feeling?
8. Analyze Julia's relationships with her teachers in this book, specifically Ms. Ivey.
9. Predict what's in store for Julia in the next year or two of her life. Will she adjust to her new high school environment? Will the Crips leave her alone? Will she and Eric continue their relationship?
10. Analyze the character: Eric. How did you feel about him at the end of the book? Is he a sympathetic or unsympathetic character? Explain your answer.
11. How has this book changed or reinforced your views about gangs?

**Creative Writing Assignments:**

1. Write a deleted scene that might have been in the book.
2. Write an epilogue that could take place one year or more after the book ends.
3. Write a scene from Ms. Ivey's viewpoint. Include her thoughts on Julia and how she believes Julia has changed.
4. Write an alternate final scene.