



the Awakening of HK DERRYBERRY BOOK CLUB *Discussion Questions*

1. Discuss the central themes in *The Awakening of HK Derryberry*. In your opinion, which ones are most relevant in today's world? Why?
2. At its core, this book is a story about transformation and awakening. Discuss the individual changes that occurred in the lives of Pearl, Jim, and HK.
3. Think about an unexpected encounter you had with a disabled person. How was Jim's reaction upon meeting HK different than your own?
4. What was the most surprising part of the book and why?
5. Share a favorite passage, story, or quote that left a profound impression on you.
6. Did Jim and HK's story change your feelings about society's marginalized population and those people "hiding in plain sight?" Explain.
7. Jim chose an unlikely path for someone who was looking forward to retirement in a few years. Did this impact the way you think about that stage of life and legacy?
8. Describe how different HK's life would be today if he had never met Jim.
9. If you could meet the main characters in this story, what questions would you ask?
10. This story hinges on life choices made by Mary's mother, William, Pearl, HK, Jim, Brenda, and others. Discuss how these decisions, both big and small, ultimately affected the outcome of this book.