



ABHM Book Club Discussion Guide

July 24th, 2025 at 4 PM CT

***Malcolm Lives!* By Ibram X. Kendi**

How to Use this Guide:

[America's Black Holocaust Museum](#) staff and Jr. Griots created this guide to assist in reading and discussion of *Malcolm Lives!* Please feel free to print a copy and keep it with your book as you lend to friends and others who are interested. Do not expect to get through all of the questions during the upcoming meeting nor in one sitting. Perhaps consider them as conversation starters or an invitation to reflect more deeply about this book.

Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Malcolm faced a lot of bullying and instability as a child that some young people today have endured or might relate to. What are some themes that kept recurring in Malcolm X's life and what should young people take away from his experiences? See page 26.
2. Malcolm X had a childhood dream of becoming a lawyer but his 8th grade teacher told him to be realistic. Why did you think his teacher told him this? How did this affect the path that Malcolm wanted to go down versus his actual path? What did this experience teach him about living in Mason, MI? See pages 53-57, and 124.
3. How did the Nation of Islam influence Malcolm? What was the significance in having his last name changed from Little to X? Why do you think Malcolm was drawn to them? How and what causes Malcolm's understanding of Islam to change over time? See pages 143-145, 163, and 277-287.

4. How did Malcolm's parents and siblings shape his worldview or support him? What teachings were they sharing with him? How did his perspective on his family and support system change as he matured? See pages 9-11, 29-30, 63, 71, 131-133, and 147-149.
5. This book was written specifically for young readers. Do you think that this book does a good job at helping young people understand Malcolm's life and growth? What other historical figures should young people learn about or want to learn about? What about books?
6. Both Dr. Cameron and Malcolm X went abroad and had experiences that profoundly impacted them. In what ways are Dr. Cameron and Malcolm X similar or different? What did they see that inspired them or changed their perspectives? See pages 279-281, and 313-15.
7. Even as a young boy Malcolm saw the impact of systemic racism on his life and the lives of others. How did this affect him and his mental health? Was he justified in feeling this way? What can we do to empower young people who may be dealing with these issues today? See pages 8, 33-35, 39, 49, 56-57, 123, 124, and 230.
8. Why did Elijah Muhammad tell Malcolm to go recruit young people? What role do young people play in the Civil Rights movement across the nation? Do many organizations work with young people today? How can we continue to include them? See pages 167-168, and 213.
9. Why did Kendi describe the present day versions of the various locations that Malcolm visited and lived in? How are they similar or different and how is his legacy remembered in these places today? See pages 3, 76, and 177.
10. What were some of the differing views between Malcolm X and other Civil Rights leaders? How were the different leaders perceived and what were they fighting for? What were some criticisms of Malcolm and the Nation of Islam? Why did he break away from them in the end? See pages 213 and 275.