YESTERDAY IS HISTORY KOSOKO JACKSON

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What are Andre's priorities at the beginning of the novel? In what ways does Andre change over the course of the story?
- 2. If you received an organ transplant, would you want to learn the identity of the donor and find out about their life?
- 3. How would you describe Michael? How are he and Andre similar? How are they different? Why do you think they are tethered to each other? How does Michael challenge Andre and his priorities?
- 4. What else do you know about the historical context of the time period in which Michael is living? Why do you think the author chose to set Michael's story during 1969-1974?
- 5. Blake explains the three rules of time travel to Andre: never go to the future, only jump one jump at a time, and never try to change the past. If you could time travel, where would you visit? Why do you think it is important to never try to change the past?
- 6. How would you describe Ms. McIntyre? Do you agree with her decision to try to revitalize the timetraveling gene inside of Andre?
- 7. How would you characterize each of the different parent-child relationships in the book: Andre and his parents, Blake and Ms. McIntyre, Michael and his parents? To what extent do those relationships influence the characters' actions?
- 8. Michael tells Andre that he has a god complex. Do you agree? Why do you think Andre tries to fix everything? Has there been a time you felt responsible for circumstances outside of your control?
- **9.** It becomes clear that time travel is destroying Andre's body. Do you think that this also holds any metaphorical significance for Andre's experiences?
- 10. This book is told from Andre's perspective. Is there another character whose point of view you would have been interested to read? How do you think that would have made the book different?
- 11. Who was your favorite character in the book? What do you think happens to them after the story ends?

