

Discussion Prompts

The Opening of a New World



Here are questions and statements to discuss with your partner. Use details and inferences from the passage to support your ideas. You may jot down notes on this page to remind you of your discussion.

1. Discuss three ways that imprisonment changed Malcolm X's life.
2. How does Bimbi influence Malcolm? Evaluate this influence.
3. Why does Malcolm X believe that the dictionary helped him become literate? Give three specific examples.
4. Why does Malcolm X devise a plan that enables him to read after "lights out" at the prison?
5. Why were inmates who were interested in books "smiled upon" in the prison system?
6. Give three reasons that Malcolm feels that his months in prison passed so quickly.
7. What is a theme of this memoir?