

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR**  
**THE LATTE REBELLION**  
**BY SARAH JAMILA STEVENSON**

1. In *The Latte Rebellion*, the idea of a latte—a coffee drink that’s usually made with espresso and steamed milk—is used as a metaphor for people of mixed race or mixed ethnicity. Of course, nobody is defined by their ethnicity alone. Can you think of other ways in which people might identify as “lattes” aside from their genetics? Could a person be a latte with respect to culture, language, political beliefs, or religion? What else? What are some other metaphors that could be used to describe a person’s identity?

2. Asha is on the receiving end of a lot of pressure from both her parents and peers about her academic and career goals. Do you think it’s realistic to be able to identify what you want to do with the rest of your life while you’re in high school? Why or why not? In thinking about this question, consider your own academic and/or career goals. Did you have the same goals two years ago? Do you think your goals will change two years from now? After you’ve graduated from college?

3. Through the *Latte Rebellion*, Asha and her friends ultimately provoke a lot more discussion than they originally meant to, and even accomplish some positive social change. Do you think it’s possible in real life to create positive change even if that isn’t a person’s original intention? Do some research and try to find one real-world example of this. Or, find an example of someone who—like Thad and his clinic idea—approached a goal with intentionality. How do the results compare? Is one strategy more effective than the other? How might Asha’s journey have been different if she had approached it with the explicit goal of creating a real social movement?

4. Asha, Carey, and Miranda decide to be anonymous leaders of the *Latte Rebellion*. Why did they make this decision? Did the three of them have different reasons for wanting to be anonymous? What do you think would have happened if they had decided to stay public?

5. When Asha, Carey, and Miranda get hauled into the vice-principal’s office after the sit-in, Asha covers for Carey so that she doesn’t get into worse trouble. Then, later, Carey

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

testifies at Asha's expulsion hearing and tells them the truth about Asha's role in the events. Is it more important to do the right thing, or stay loyal to your friends?

6. Discuss the different ways that Asha's paternal grandmother, Grandma "Bee" (Blanca), and her maternal grandmother, Nani, integrated their families into mainstream American culture. What aspects of their culture did they retain? What did they give up? Why might they have made these choices?

7. Kaelyn Vander Sar used to be a friend of Asha and Carey, but by the time the story starts, they're more like "frenemies"—they're civil to each other, but their relationship is strained. Then, as the book progresses and the Rebellion gains popularity, Kaelyn becomes increasingly unhappy with Asha and her friends. Why do you think this happens?

8. Toward the end of the book, Asha has one last confrontation with Roger Yee. Roger asks her, "Don't you want to to, you know, represent?" What does it mean to "represent" in terms of culture or race? What does Asha decide is the right course of action for her? What are some reasons why it might be important to represent? What are some reasons someone might not be interested in representing?

9. If you had the opportunity to come up with your own scheme—moneymaking or otherwise—what would it be? In their scheme, Asha identifies as the "idea man," while Carey's the tech whiz and Miranda is the artistic brain. What is your ideal role?

10. Asha and her friends create alter egos for themselves: Agent Alpha, Captain Charlie, etc. "Alter ego" is Latin for "other self"—so an alter ego is another version of you. Create your own alter ego, and draw a picture of him or her. What would your alter ego be really good at? Would they be super smart? Charismatic? How might they look different, or behave differently?