



With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo

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### Themes to Discuss:

- Names
  - What does Emoni's name say about her?
  - What is significant about her choice for Emma's name?
  - How does that decision contrast with her father's beliefs?
- Blood family vs. Chosen Family
  - Emoni has a combination of a connection with blood family and chosen family. Why do you think that is that significant?
- Stereotypes
  - Being black (i.e. – Malachi & the little boy in Europe)
  - Teen Mom stereotypes
  - Pretty Leslie
  - Baby daddy stereotypes
- Links between food and roots
  - Past vs. future
  - Instinct vs. structure
- Plans vs. Destiny
  - How much of Emoni's outcomes are her planning or things just being meant for her?
- Disabilities
  - Emoni struggles with school and with directions
  - Her grandmother has a hand injury
- Trauma
  - How does trauma influence each of the characters' decisions? (i.e. – Emoni's reactions to Pretty Leslie or to Tyrone, Malachi to the kid in Europe, 'Buela dating, etc).
- Motherhood
  - What *does* motherhood really look like? What makes a good mom?