

Name: _____

4th and 5th Encounter Discussion Questions

Respond to the following questions to help you prepare for our class discussion next period.

1. Why did Roberta lie to Twyla about them literally kicking Maggie?
2. Why did Roberta want to kick Maggie, and what does she mean by “wanting to is doing it”?
3. What is significant about Maggie’s race and the fact that Twyla and Roberta are confused about it?
4. Does their age excuse their treatment of Maggie?

5. What does Twyla mean by her thought that the silence between them “went from the diner past the paper bells on out into the snow?” How has their friendship changed? Are they still friends?
6. What is important about their last exchange of information about their mothers?
7. Why does Toni Morrison end the story in the way she does? What do their thoughts about Maggie reveal about their society and the historical context/systems that they grew up around?