

# Looking Beyond the Ordinary

## DISCUSSION GUIDE



Gripping...

Relatable...

Honest...

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE (PAGE 1)

1. What values has Jade's mother instilled in her and raised her to follow? Why? How might these values be concerning?
2. What does it mean when Mike tells Jade that he doesn't want their relationship "labeled?" What are your opinions about this statement?
3. What intrigues Jade about Ghost?
4. Why do you believe that there is a strong distrust that Jarell has with everyone?
5. Why do you believe Jade and her friend Laurie feel the pressures to have sex? What are some key ideas about self-worth around sex that the two characters are exploring?
6. How has bullying affected the atmosphere of the school? How has bullying affected each of the characters?
7. Are Jade and Jarell's parents supportive? If so, in what ways? If not, what is lacking?
8. What factors contributed to Jarell opening up to Jade?
9. What are some things in Jarell's life that many of his peers and classmates don't know?
10. Why do you believe Jarell ultimately decided to fight back and defend himself?

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE (PAGE 2)

11. Compare the encounters with romance and sex that Jade had with Mike and Jarell. What are key differences between how Mike handled sex versus Jarell?
12. How has Jade's relationship with her friends changed from the beginning of the book to the end? Why did those relationships change?
13. What lessons about sexual consent did you learn from this book?
14. What lessons about bullying did you learn from this book?
15. What lessons about friendship and popularity did you learn from this book?