

***Good Talk* by Mira Jacob**

1. What did you think of Jacob's choice to not draw different facial expressions on the characters?
2. Did you notice the recycling of certain characters throughout the book? What did you think of her choices about which characters to recycle? Did those choices surprise you?
3. Jacob shows moments where people she loved hurt her with racist assumptions and also moments where she hurt others with her own assumptions. Why do you think she chose to include both?
4. *Good Talk* mixes humor with so many emotions — anger, vulnerability, love. The “light” mixes so well with the heavy, it's jarring but in a powerful way. How did you experience this mix?
5. The book is framed around the hard conversations between the author and her son leading up to the 2016 election. Our current moment makes for some hard conversations, too. How have you been talking to family and friends about COVID-19? About the demonstrations?
6. Jacob shares contentious moments with her in-laws and also makes clear that she loves them and they love her. Art helps us see and process our complicated relationships. Has art, whether making it or consuming it, been helping you process the events of 2020?
7. Were you surprised about how Jacob's family talked about her skin color?
8. What did you think of Jacob's explanation to her son about systemic racism? Did you agree or disagree with her that BIPOC people can be bigoted but not racist?
9. At one point Z asks Jacob whether his father is afraid of him. How did you feel about a six-year-old asking this question? Were you surprised?