

Curls, Coils & Confidence



Discussion Guide to “**The New & Improved Reggie Brown**” by Kamichi Jackson



You're Too Much, Reggie Brown (2025)

Themes: Self-image, peer pressure, confidence, and the meaning of true beauty

First Impressions & Feelings

- How did Reggie feel before her hair appointment with Aunt Ernie?
 - Why do you think she was so excited to change her hair?
 - Have you ever looked forward to a big change or makeover? What happened?
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Hair & Identity

- Reggie straightens her hair for the first time. How did it make her feel at first?
- What do you think changed by the end of the story?
- Why is hair such an important part of someone's identity—especially in the Black community?

Fitting In vs. Standing Out

- Reggie hoped to impress her classmates. Did things go the way she expected?
 - What happened when it rained? Why did that moment hurt Reggie so much?
 - Have you ever felt pressure to look or act a certain way to be liked? How did you deal with it?
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Support Systems

- How did Aunt Ernie respond when Reggie showed up at the salon crying?
 - What was Aunt Ernie trying to teach Reggie about beauty and self-love?
 - Who in *your* life makes you feel better when you're feeling down?
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Culture & Confidence

- Aunt Ernie talks about the beauty of natural hair and how everyone has “bad hair days.” What does this tell us about how she views beauty?
- What does Reggie learn about herself and her hair by the end of the story?

- What are some of the different hairstyles mentioned in the story? Can you name or describe some others that celebrate Black beauty?
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Critical Thinking & Media Influence

- Reggie says she wants to look like the girls in magazines and videos. What do you think about that?
 - How do magazines, shows, or social media affect the way we see beauty?
 - What kinds of people or styles *should* we see more of in those places?
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Friendship & Empathy

- How did CeCe treat Reggie throughout the story? What about Tee? Dexter?
 - What did Tee do near the end of the story that showed real friendship?
 - What does this story teach us about who deserves our attention and kindness?
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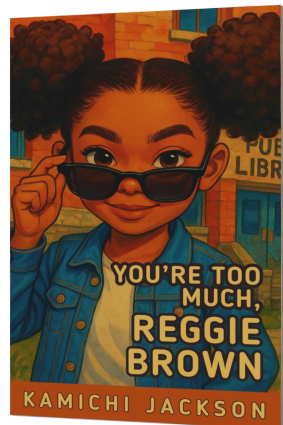
Reflection Questions (Great for Writing Prompts)

- Reggie said it was the best day of her life... at first. What made it change?
 - What advice would you give to Reggie if you were her friend?
 - What's something that makes *you* feel confident and beautiful—inside or out?
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BONUS: Activity Extension

- Art Project: Create a poster called “Beauty Is...” and fill it with words and pictures that show what beauty means to *you*.
 - Hair Journal Prompt: Write or draw a memory of a time you got your hair done. How did it make you feel?
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Thank you for reading!



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