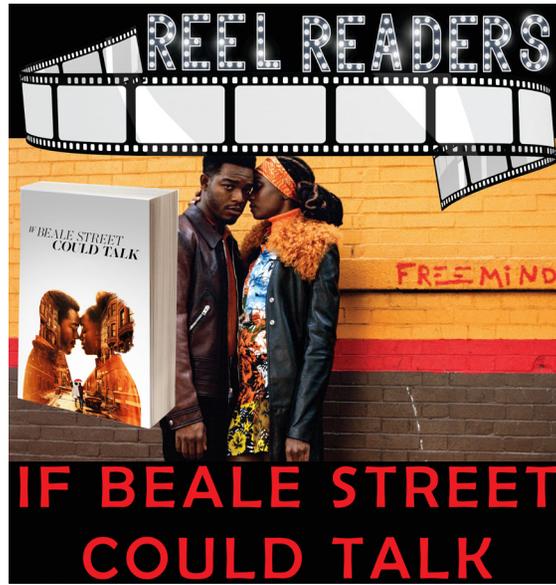


Thursday, November 21 @ 6pm

The Book: Told through the perspective of Tish, a nineteen-year old girl, who is engaged to Fonny, a twenty-two-year old sculptor. Tish finds out that she is pregnant; however, Fonny is accused of a crime he did not commit and is imprisoned. James Baldwin paints a bittersweet story with the untimely events surrounding Tish and Fonny, while also giving the both of them hope for love.

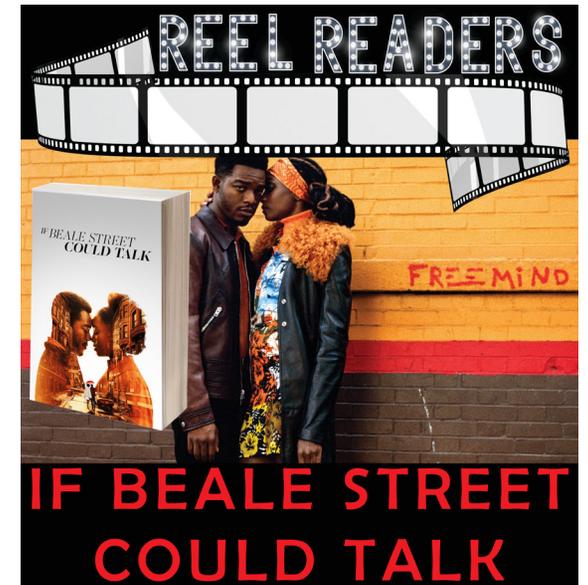
The Movie: In the Oscar winning film *If Beale Street Could Talk*, newcomer KiKi Layne portrays Tish, who is pregnant and engaged to Fonny, portrayed by Stephan James. However, their plans are derailed when Fonny is arrested for a crime he did not commit.



Thursday, November 21 @ 6pm

The Book: Told through the perspective of Tish, a nineteen-year old girl, who is engaged to Fonny, a twenty-two-year old sculptor. Tish finds out that she is pregnant; however, Fonny is accused of a crime he did not commit and is imprisoned. James Baldwin paints a bittersweet story with the untimely events surrounding Tish and Fonny, while also giving the both of them hope for love.

The Movie: In the Oscar winning film *If Beale Street Could Talk*, newcomer KiKi Layne portrays Tish, who is pregnant and engaged to Fonny, portrayed by Stephan James. However, their plans are derailed when Fonny is arrested for a crime he did not commit.



Thursday, November 21 @ 6pm

The Book: Told through the perspective of Tish, a nineteen-year old girl, who is engaged to Fonny, a twenty-two-year old sculptor. Tish finds out that she is pregnant; however, Fonny is accused of a crime he did not commit and is imprisoned. James Baldwin paints a bittersweet story with the untimely events surrounding Tish and Fonny, while also giving the both of them hope for love.

The Movie: In the Oscar winning film *If Beale Street Could Talk*, newcomer KiKi Layne portrays Tish, who is pregnant and engaged to Fonny, portrayed by Stephan James. However, their plans are derailed when Fonny is arrested for a crime he did not commit.



Discussions Questions

1. Who do you feel is the most vulnerable person in this book?

2. Who do you see as the hero or heroes of this book? Who shows courage?

3. Which character or characters are the most changed by what happens in this book?

4. People often say, "Love conquers all." Do you feel hopeful for Tish and Fonny at the end of the book? Will their love conquer their hardships?

5. Were you shocked by parts of this book? If you were shocked, which parts shocked you?

6. Fonny and Tish are the protagonists of the novel. Discuss the characters in *If Beale Street Could Talk* in relation to whether or not they help or hinder the main characters.

7. This book was published in 1974. Does it feel old-fashioned to you in some ways, or does it feel accurate for today?

8. Do you agree with this statement?: "The women characters in *If Beale Street Could Talk* are portrayed either as saints or villains." Why or why not? Give evidence to support your opinion.

9. Why do you think Fonny's father, Frank, killed himself?

10. When this book was published, some black leaders and activists said that author James Baldwin was showing hatred for black people. Do you feel that the author, who was African American, showed hatred for black people and black society?

11. Does *If Beale Street Could Talk* make you angry?

Discussions Questions

1. Who do you feel is the most vulnerable person in this book?

2. Who do you see as the hero or heroes of this book? Who shows courage?

3. Which character or characters are the most changed by what happens in this book?

4. People often say, "Love conquers all." Do you feel hopeful for Tish and Fonny at the end of the book? Will their love conquer their hardships?

5. Were you shocked by parts of this book? If you were shocked, which parts shocked you?

6. Fonny and Tish are the protagonists of the novel. Discuss the characters in *If Beale Street Could Talk* in relation to whether or not they help or hinder the main characters.

7. This book was published in 1974. Does it feel old-fashioned to you in some ways, or does it feel accurate for today?

8. Do you agree with this statement?: "The women characters in *If Beale Street Could Talk* are portrayed either as saints or villains." Why or why not? Give evidence to support your opinion.

9. Why do you think Fonny's father, Frank, killed himself?

10. When this book was published, some black leaders and activists said that author James Baldwin was showing hatred for black people. Do you feel that the author, who was African American, showed hatred for black people and black society?

11. Does *If Beale Street Could Talk* make you angry?

Discussions Questions

1. Who do you feel is the most vulnerable person in this book?

2. Who do you see as the hero or heroes of this book? Who shows courage?

3. Which character or characters are the most changed by what happens in this book?

4. People often say, "Love conquers all." Do you feel hopeful for Tish and Fonny at the end of the book? Will their love conquer their hardships?

5. Were you shocked by parts of this book? If you were shocked, which parts shocked you?

6. Fonny and Tish are the protagonists of the novel. Discuss the characters in *If Beale Street Could Talk* in relation to whether or not they help or hinder the main characters.

7. This book was published in 1974. Does it feel old-fashioned to you in some ways, or does it feel accurate for today?

8. Do you agree with this statement?: "The women characters in *If Beale Street Could Talk* are portrayed either as saints or villains." Why or why not? Give evidence to support your opinion.

9. Why do you think Fonny's father, Frank, killed himself?

10. When this book was published, some black leaders and activists said that author James Baldwin was showing hatred for black people. Do you feel that the author, who was African American, showed hatred for black people and black society?

11. Does *If Beale Street Could Talk* make you angry?