



# Colorado Book Club Resource

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR ERASURE BY PERCIVAL EVERETTE

1. How do you interpret Thelonious "Monk" Ellison's character? What are his main conflicts, both internal and external?
2. How does the novel address the theme of identity? In what ways does Monk struggle with his own identity?
3. Discuss the concept of authenticity in the book. How does Monk's creation of "My Pafology" challenge notions of authenticity?
4. What role does satire play in "Erasure"? How does Everett use satire to comment on the literary world and societal expectations?
5. Discuss how the book critiques the publishing industry's treatment of African American literature.
6. How does "Erasure" explore the issue of cultural representation? What commentary does the novel make about race and stereotypes?
7. Examine Monk's relationship with his family, particularly his mother and siblings. How do these relationships influence his actions and decisions?
8. How does the concept of double consciousness (W.E.B. Du Bois) manifest in Monk's life and work?
9. Discuss the significance of Monk's novel within the novel, "My Pafology." How does it serve as a parody and what is its impact on Monk's life?
10. How is "My Pafology" received by the characters in the novel? What does this reception say about societal views on race and literature?
11. What are Monk's views on his academic and literary career? How does he navigate the expectations placed upon him?
12. What moral or ethical dilemmas does Monk face in writing and publishing "My Pafology"? How do these dilemmas reflect broader societal issues?
13. Identify and discuss key symbols and motifs in the novel. How do they contribute to the overall message of the book?
14. How do you interpret the ending of "Erasure"? What message do you think Everett is trying to convey through the novel's conclusion?



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15. How did "Erasure" challenge your own perceptions or biases? Were there moments in the book that you found particularly striking or thought-provoking?
16. Compare "Erasure" to other works of African American literature or satirical novels you've read. What similarities or differences do you notice in themes, style, and approach?

***Discussion questions generated by ChatGPT.***



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