

**Kingston Reads: So You Want to Talk About Race**  
**By Ijeoma Oluo**  
**Rough Draft Bar and Books, 82 John Street, Kingston, NY**

**Session #3 – Thursday, July 30, 2020**  
**5 pm Chapters 11 – 17**

*Please note that we will not be able to get to all the questions/reflections listed in our one-hour community discussion. We share these with the intention that folks will be able use them for their own book studies as we expand the work of educating ourselves to create a foundation for action and change.*

**Reflection #1 (Chapter 11: Why can't I touch your hair? PLUS Chapter 12: What are microaggressions?)**

Oluo considers it a “microaggression” when a white person asks to touch the hair of a person of color—one of many examples of what she says are the small things that happen to marginalized people on a regular basis, small things that add up to cause a major impact on their lives. How does this change your view of what you might have previously thought of as “incidental” or, “no big deal?”

**Reflection #2 (Chapter 13: Why are our students so angry?)**

Now that you are three-quarters of the way through this book, do you feel differently about racism—in that systemic racism, despite individual progress, “remains,” as the author writes? Are our black and brown children and adults justified in their anger?

**Reflection #3 (Chapter 14: What is the Model Minority Myth?)**

Who do we see in our culture when we see the “model minority?” Who do we not see when we are looking through this lens?

**Reflection #4 (Chapter 15: But what if I hate Al Sharpton?)**

How do you react when you perceive people of color to be “loud” or “angry?” Have you ever been accused of “tone policing?” What do you think of this statement by the author “There is no neutrality to be had towards systems of injustice—it is not something you can just opt out of. If you believe in justice and equality, we are in this together, whether you like me or not.”

**Reflection #5 (Chapter 16: I just got called a racist, what do I do now?)**

The author writes that white people are all racists because we have been born and bred in a white supremacist society. What do you think of this statement? Do you hear it differently now that you have nearly completed the book?

**Reflection #6 (Chapter 17: Talking is great, but what else can I do?)**

This chapter is about action! Oluo lists small steps (pp. 231-234) that can create real change. Which action might you want to take on – are there any that you might like to work on?

