

BURN DOWN, RISE UP

BY VINCENT TIRADO

DISCUSSION GUIDE



1. Traumatic events in history make up the base of the Echo, not just in the Bronx but in the world of *BURN DOWN, RISE UP*. In real life, the scars left by traumatic events are often more symbolic and less physical. In what ways are the scars left by the Echo similar to the effects of living through the Decade of Fire?
2. How important is Aaron's friendship to Raquel and how does she show it?
3. One of the rules to play the Echo Game is that one should always keep moving forward and not back. However, the past is a difficult thing to escape from. How do you move forward in a difficult situation?
4. Between Raquel's feelings for Charlize, her love for her mother, and her loyalty to the people of the Bronx, how do Raquel's motivations morph and change throughout her journey through the Echo?
5. The man in the corduroy jacket is a prominent figure who routinely makes an appearance. What were his motivations for seeking out Raquel?
6. Think about the usage of resguardos throughout the book. What do you think made them strong: Raquel's cultural ties to them, or her ties to her community? Why?
7. Despite having asthma, Raquel only suffers violent impulses and flashbacks from the rot whereas her mother had to be hospitalized. Considering that the rot is analogous to a symptom of systemic racism, how do these two different reactions show the ways in which systemic racism can destroy lives?
8. The man in the corduroy jacket states that even though Raquel defeated the Slumlord, he wasn't really gone. What did he mean by that?
9. What was Raquel's reaction to seeing the original missing Fordham students in the Echo and how did her interaction with them change her desire to help them?
10. Think about the differences between Raquel's mother and Raquel's father. How have her relationships with them influenced the decisions she makes in the Echo?