

ANGEL OF GREENWOOD

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

The *Angel of Greenwood* is a historical YA novel that takes place during the Greenwood Massacre of 1921, in an area of Tulsa, OK, known as the "Black Wall Street."

Seventeen-year-old Isaiah Wilson is, on the surface, a town troublemaker, but is hiding that he is an avid reader and secret poet, never leaving home without his journal. Sixteen-year-old Angel Hill is a loner, mostly disregarded by her peers as a goody-goody. Though they've attended the same schools, Isaiah never noticed Angel as anything but a dorky, Bible-toting church girl. When their English teacher offers them a job on her mobile library, Angel can't turn down the money, and Isaiah is soon eager to be in such close quarters with Angel every afternoon.

But life changes on May 31, 1921 when a vicious white mob storms the community of Greenwood, leaving the town destroyed and thousands of residents displaced. Only then, Isaiah, Angel, and their peers realize who their real enemies are.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Randi Pink is the author of *Girls Like Us*, a School Library Journal Best Book of 2019, and *Into White*, also published by Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan. She lives with her family and two rescue dogs in Birmingham, Alabama.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Which character did you relate to the most, and why?
- 2) Angel and Isaiah are on different sides when it comes to the W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T Washington conversation. What are the pros and cons of each outlook?
- 3) Isaiah has a deep admiration for W.E.B. Dubois and develops an admiration for Angel. Who is one person you admire and why?
- 4) So much of this story deals with the idea of people having more layers and nuance than others may realize, such as with Isaiah, Angel, and even Muggy. What's something people may be surprised to learn about you?
- 5) Is this your first time hearing about the Tulsa Race Massacre or did you learn about it before starting this book? Why do you think this event was kept such a secret, despite how horrible it was?
- 6) How did it feel to get the perspective of the town of Greenwood itself? If you had to speak for Greenwood, what would you say? Consider writing a few sentences from the point of view of the town or a building in the town. How would you feel watching all this destruction? What would you say to the residents?
- 7) Do you see any parallels between the events in the novel and our current world?

