

# Girls Like Us

## read fierce DISCUSSION GUIDE

### ABOUT THE BOOK

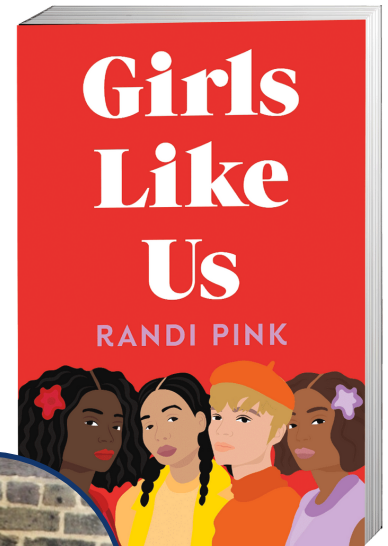
Four teenage girls. Four different stories. What they all have in common is that they're dealing with unplanned pregnancies.

In rural Georgia, Izella is wise beyond her years, but burdened with the responsibility of her older sister, Ola, who has found out she's pregnant. Their young neighbor, Mississippi, is also pregnant, but doesn't fully understand the extent of her predicament. When her father sends her to Chicago to give birth, she meets the final narrator, Susan, who is white and the daughter of an anti-choice senator.

Four lives masterfully woven into a larger story – as timely as ever – about a woman's right to choose her future.

### 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 find the most interesting, and why?
2. Mr. Melvin, tells the story of tossing a penny really high up and by the time it came down "it had lost its copper color and was all dented up and battered. It came back different, but more valuable. Not more valuable to any other man in the world, though, you see?" and then later says he sees himself in that penny. What do you think is the message or lesson in that story?
3. A lot of this book deals with younger characters learning from and forming close bonds with much older characters, author Randi Pink speaks in her Author's Note about her love for listening to her elders. Why do you think such emphasis is placed on learning from your elders? Is there any advice or lesson you've learned from one that stuck with you?
4. Why do you think the author included a chapter that takes place in a more contemporary world? Did it change your understanding of or relationship with the story?
5. Were you familiar with Roe v. Wade prior to reading this novel? Did your view on it change after finishing this book?
6. Though 1972 is not that far in the past, this book is still partly historical fiction. What do we gain from analyzing events that have already happened? Why do you think it's important to read and learn from not just nonfiction accounts of history but fictional accounts with historical truths?
7. What is one thing you took away from this story or something that stood out to you?

