

## How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith

### Discussion Questions

- What was your educational experience in school when learning about the history of slavery in the United States?
- How has this book challenged or aligned with your teachings and belief?
- How has colonization and the system of slavery affected Senegal colonizers and enslavers?
- How does this book make you think about the United States and Confederate states involvement in the freedom and containment of African and African American people?
- In what ways has the racial caste system been used to keep African people and African American people from being allowed equal rights that were given to white Americans before and after emancipation?
- How have statues like Robert E Lee in New Orleans or the Statue of Liberty erased or perpetuated the history of slavery and exclusion or rights for African Americans and Black Americans? Do you believe monuments associated with hate and racism should be removed?
- Are there monuments, memorials, or museums in Fort Bend County (even in the state of TX) that do a good job memorializing slavery? Are there examples of local sites that do a poor job?
- If you are not a Texas native, when was the first time you heard the Civil War called “The War of Northern Aggression”? What was your reaction?
- What have you, as a reader, taken away from learning the stories and history of African American people and their generational lineage of slavery pain, hurt and hope?

For further study: Visit the **Whitney Plantation** in Wallace, LA (1 hour west of New Orleans). Read **Caste** by Isabel Wilkerson (yes, it’s a lot of pages, but will open your eyes) and **In The Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History** by Mitch Landrieu, the former mayor of New Orleans about how he came to take down Civil War statues.

*Discussion Questions from Book Browse.com (except for the second to last one)*