



# BLACKINESE

## *Book Club Guide*

### Brief Summary

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In *Blackinese*, Patricia Bradby Moore candidly explores her mixed Black and Chinese identity growing up in the American South and beyond. Through vivid stories of culture, race, and belonging, she invites readers to embrace complexity and find strength in uniqueness. A powerful memoir for anyone navigating identity in a world of blurred lines.

### Key Discussion Questions

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#### **Introduction & Part I: Childhood**

1. How did the author's early family traditions and dynamics shape their sense of identity, and how do your own childhood experiences compare?
2. Food, religion, and cultural rituals often carry deep meaning—what role have these played in your own understanding of belonging or difference?
3. Which moment from the author's adolescence resonated most with you, and how has your teenage self shaped who you are today?

#### **Part II: College Into Early Adulthood**

4. How did the author's college years challenge or deepen their understanding of who they are? Did your own young adulthood bring similar turning points?
5. The author's global travels revealed how race and ethnicity are perceived differently across cultures—have you ever had an experience that shifted how you see identity?
6. What could schools and communities do better to support individuals with complex or multicultural backgrounds?

## Part III: Love, Labor, and Legacy

7. How did the author navigate romantic and professional spaces while carrying multiple cultural expectations, and what parallels do you see in your own life?
8. In “Building a Multicultural Family,” the author reflects on legacy—what does “legacy” mean to you, and what kind of legacy do you want to create?
9. Which workplace or relationship story in the book felt most universal, and which challenged your perspective on identity?

### Overall Reflection

10. Were there moments in the memoir that made you reflect on your own identity or family history in new ways?
11. Which story or emotional arc struck you most deeply, and why do you think it resonated?
12. After reading this memoir, what conversations about race, culture, or belonging feel more urgent or necessary in your own life?

## Suggested Activities

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- **Cultural Storytelling Circle:** Invite members to bring a family dish (with its recipe), a cherished heirloom, or a story from their heritage. Together, share and discuss how these cultural touchstones have shaped each person's sense of identity.
- **Identity Mapping:** Using magazine cutouts, photos, and other personal paper items, create a visual map or collage that represents your cultural influences.
- **Reflection Journals:** Invite participants to write a short reflection on a time they navigated multiple aspects of their identity (such as race, culture, language, or family). As an option, they could write a letter to their younger self.
- **Role-Play Scenarios:** Select key scenes (e.g., from adolescence, college campus, or the workplace) and dramatize them. Discuss the emotions and societal dynamics at play.
- **Playlist Creation:** Build a playlist featuring music that resonates with the book's themes.

## Invite the author

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Enhance your book club experience by inviting the author to join your discussion—virtually or in person. For speaking engagements, book club visits, or special events, please reach out via [hello@patriciabmoore.com](mailto:hello@patriciabmoore.com)