

Chapter Summary and Discussion Questions – colorandcharacter.org

Final Thoughts: Past, Present, and Future

Focus: Present-day challenges and opportunities

Briefly considers the challenges and possibilities faced by west side neighborhoods and West Charlotte High at a time of rapid gentrification, low social mobility, a shortage of affordable housing and expanding educational "choice."

Questions to explore

While discussing gentrification, west side resident J'Tanya Adams referred to capitalism as "a beast." What do you think she meant? Do you agree?

The author argues that "creating racially and economically integrated communities and schools requires deliberate action in multiple areas, from dedicated grassroots community-building to public policies that foster mixed-income housing and integrated schools." Do you agree with this assessment? What if any actions do you think communities should take to promote racial and economic integration in schools and/or housing?

Which parts of West Charlotte High's long history do you think would be most useful for residents seeking to plan for the west side's future?