

# SAGA BOY MY LIFE OF BLACKNESS AND BECOMING BY ANTONIO MICHAEL DOWNING



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do the prolonged effects of colonialism affect Antonio Michael Downing and his Trinidadian community in *Saga Boy*?
2. Downing has had multiple monikers in his life. How do these monikers parallel his transformations and different identities?
3. In *Saga Boy*, how has the absence of a parental figure (by death or estrangement) affected Downing and his other relatives?
4. How was music a constant theme in Downing's upbringing? Reflect on how music has or has not played a significant role in your life.
5. What descriptions does Downing use to depict the contracts between geographical and cultural landscapes through his life?
6. How do the themes of religion and God relate to Downing and his family's story?
7. In *Saga Boy*, Caribbean women are referred to as "deep wells of resilience from which all around them drew water" (18). What dynamic does this set in the Caribbean and Black community for women and young girls?
8. The theme of death is touched on several times throughout *Saga Boy*. How does Downing interact with "the dead" throughout the book?
9. How does Downing describe the Queen's influence in his development? Positively? Negatively?
10. In what ways does Downing cope with the culture shock of moving to Canada from his original home of Trinidad?