



Reading Guide

***Bom Boy* by Yewande Omotoso**

1. Who is Leke? What relationships does he have with others? Are his relationships solid or ephemeral/healthy or unhealthy? Why?
2. This story is told with liberal use of flashbacks, along with letters written to Leke from his birth father in prison. What is the effect of the story's structure--flashbacks and letters interspersed with present-day scenes? Why do you think Omotoso chose to construct the plot using this structure?
3. What is Leke's (emotional/physical) problem or dilemma? How does he seek healing? Are his sources of medical and spiritual help effective? Why or why not?
4. Leke has a problem with kleptomania? Why? What is he seeking or trying to solve with his kleptomania?
5. Leke's birth mother decides to leave Leke (suddenly and without warning) with a kind woman she had met only once before? What do you make of her decision? Can you sympathize or understand it? Why or why not? What parts of Elaine's personal history makes this decision understandable or at least explainable?
6. Why does Oscar go to Marcus Feathers's house? What is he seeking or looking for or trying to solve? What happens inadvertently because of his actions? Do you think he could have made different choices? Why or why not?
7. Leke and his adoptive father struggle to understand each other or communicate or show affection. What glues their relationship together? During the course of the novel, they come to some sort of truce or agreement. What is it? How and why do they come to it.
8. Yewande Omotoso has said in interviews that this story is a love story. Would you characterize it as a love story? If yes, how? If no, why not?