



These discussion questions were developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [A. E. Stallings](#) and [Erica Dawson](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the relationship between the title and the text of “If My Baby Girl is White”? How does the poem tell a story? How does the poem function like an if/then proposition?
- Describe the various ways “If My Baby Girl is White” make use of rhyme. You might use different shapes or colored pencils to trace the patterns of consonants and vowels, as well.
- “If My Baby Girl is White” begins with an epigraph from the Lucille Clifton poem “[my dream about being white](#).” Read “my dream about being white” and discuss any resonances you see between these two poems.
- “Florida Funeral” is full of interesting, sonically rich words—some of which seem obscure or specific to a place or body of knowledge. Make a list of the words you don’t know in the poem. What is their effect on you? What do you imagine they mean? Look them up in a dictionary and reread the poem. Has the effect of the poem changed for you?
- Take a quick look at the Dr. Seuss’s book, *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, if you don’t know it already. What does Erica Dawson’s “One Fish Two Fish” take from the Seuss original? What do you make of the poem’s invocation of a children’s book?