

Amina's Song
Discussion Guide
Grades 3-7

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Activate prior knowledge: In this story the main character, Amina, travels to Pakistan to visit her relatives. Locate Pakistan on a globe, map, or GPS.
- Look up images about the Anarkali Bazaar to build background knowledge.

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Why doesn't Zohra want Amina to show she is interested in purchasing items at the Anarkali Bazaar? (Ch.1)
- Amina remembers her mosque back home that was vandalized and set on fire by teenagers. How does Amina feel about the teenagers? Why? (Ch. 3)
- How does Zohra feel about visiting America? Why do you think she feels that way? (Ch. 5)
- After seeing Emily and Soojin for the first time Amina thinks to herself "It's like I'm a different person, and they have no idea" (p. 83). What do you think she means by this?
- Why are families moving into the Greendale community from all different countries? What will Amina and her community do to support them? (Ch. 11)
- Who is Mr. Griffiths? What assignment does he give the students? (Ch. 12)
- Why does Soojin want to run for class president? (Ch. 15)
- Who is Nico? What do he and Amina have in common? (Ch. 16)
- What happens after Amina gives her first presentation about Malala? How does Amina feel about what happened? What do you think she will do next? (Ch. 19).
- Why is Amina upset that Rabiya opened her notebook and read her song lyrics? Why does Rabiya ask Amina if she is having an identity crisis? (Ch. 22)
- What happens to Amina at the dance? (Ch. 23)
- What else do Nico and Amina discover they have in common? (Ch. 25-26)
- How does Amina describe her feelings for Nico? Do her friends believe her? Why or why not? (Ch. 29)
- Why does Amina decide to let Rabiya read her notebook? (Ch. 31)
- What does Amina do during her presentation on Malala? Why do you think she does it? (Ch. 33)
- What is Mr. Griffith's reaction to Amina's presentation? What do you think Mr. Griffith's means when he says Amina's presentation took courage? (Ch. 34)
- Why do you think Soojin won class president? Give reasons for why she won. (Ch. 36)
- What does Amina mean when she says, "maybe my heart had to ache while it grew to make room for all the people and places I love" (p. 275)? (Ch. 38)

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

Amina shares her thoughts and feelings through song. What is a way you can tell your own story? Find a creative way to share your voice through stories, poems, collage, film, or photographs.

Characters do not stay the same throughout the whole book. Think about how Amina acts in one scene and compare it with how she acts or thinks in a different scene. How does Amina change throughout the story?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.