

Book Club

Our Voices

LITTLE STORIES THROUGH A LATINA LENS



Discussion Guide

Discussion Guide

Introduction:

Welcome to the discussion guide for "Our Voices: Little Stories Through A Latina Lens." This collection of stories written by Latina author, Lizette Epps, explores a wide range of themes, experiences, and perspectives within the Latin community. Whether you're part of a dedicated book club or simply reading this book with friends, we hope this guide enhances your discussion and deepens your understanding of the book. Please note that this guide contains spoilers, so be sure to read the book before diving into these discussion questions.

Book Club Activities (Optional): If you want to go the extra mile with your book club, consider exploring Latinx cuisine, music, or art related to the stories in the book. Share your experiences and connections with these cultural elements during your discussion.

Icebreaker Questions

1. To kick things off, let's go around and share our initial impressions of the book. What drew you to "Our Voices: Little Stories Through A Latina Lens"?
2. Do you have any personal connections or experiences that relate to the themes or stories in this book?

Themes and Character Development:

1. The book explores a wide range of themes, from identity and culture to family and resilience. Which theme resonated with you the most? Why?
2. Which character(s) stood out to you, and why? Did you find any of their stories particularly compelling or relatable?
3. Discuss the role of language in culture. How does language impact the lives and decisions of those in the book?

Identity and Culture:

1. How do the characters in the book navigate their identities as Latinx & Hispanics versus Americans? How does this impact their experiences and choices?
2. In what ways does the book challenge stereotypes or misconceptions about the Latin community? Were there any moments that surprised you?

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Writing Style and Narration:

1. "Our Voices" features multiple characters, each with their own unique stories. The poems written by the author as lead ins to the chapters were also different from what we see in books. Did you notice any differences in writing styles between the stories? How did this affect your reading experience?
2. How did the first-person narration in most of the stories impact your connection to the characters and their experiences?

Empowerment and Resilience:

1. Many of the characters in the book face challenges and adversity. How do they demonstrate resilience and empowerment in the face of these challenges?
2. Were there any moments in the book that inspired you or made you reflect on your own experiences of either overcoming adversity or how you engage with others who are different from you?

Intersectionality and Inclusivity:

1. The book highlights the diversity within the Latin community, including factors like ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, and socio-economic background. How does this diversity enrich the stories and broaden our understanding of Latin/Hispanic experiences?

Author's Voice:

1. If you could ask the author a question about them, a particular story, or the book as a whole, what would it be?

Overall Impression:

1. What are your final thoughts on "Our Voices: Little Stories Through A Latina Lens"? Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?

Conclusion:

Thank you for joining our discussion of "Our Voices: Little Stories Through A Latina Lens." We hope you found this guide helpful in unpacking the themes, characters, and cultural nuances within the book. Remember that literature is a powerful tool for promoting empathy and understanding, and we hope this book has enriched your perspective on the Latina experience. Happy reading and discussing!