

Amina's Voice
Discussion Guide
Grades 3-7

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

- Discuss the importance of friends in everyday life. Why do we have friends? How do we make new friends? Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about Islam.
- Frontload vocabulary: tempo, solo, Urdu, mosque, Quran, haram

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

- Why does Soojin want to change her name? Why does Amina not want Soojin to change her name? (Ch. 1)
- What does Mustafa disagree with Baba and Mama about? Why? (Ch. 2)
- Why does the family feel conflicted about Thaya Jaan coming to visit? (Ch. 2 and Ch. 4)
- Why is Amina confused about Soojin and Emily's friendship? (Ch. 1 and Ch. 3)
- Why do you think Amina doesn't want to share her voice? Have you ever felt this way about one of your talents? (Ch. 4)
- What does Amina do at Sunday School? Why is attending Sunday School important to Amina and her family? (Ch. 5)
- How does Amina's family prepare for Thaya Jaan's visit? Have you ever had a relative come to visit that you had to prepare for? How did you prepare? (Ch. 6)
- What is Amina's first impression of Thaya Jaan? (Ch. 9-10)
- Why do you think Amina is jealous of Soojin and Emily's friendship? (Ch. 7, Ch. 8, and Ch.11)
- What new information does Amina learn about Emily that starts to change her first impression? (Ch.11)
- Why is Mustafa afraid that Imam Malik will talk to his parents? (Ch.12)
- Why does Baba and Thaya Jaan's conversation about music upset Amina so much? (Ch. 13-14)
- How do Mama and Baba make Amina feel better about singing? (Ch.15)
- Why do you think Amina tells Bradley about Emily's crush on Justin? (Ch.16)
- Why are Soojin and Emily so upset with Amina? Do you think they're right to be so upset? (Ch. 18)
- Why does the Humazah surah upset Amina so much? How does Mama help Amina feel better? (Ch.18)
- Do you think Amina's plan to make things right with Emily and Soojin will work? Why or why not? (Ch. 19)
- Why would someone commit violence against a peaceful place like the Islamic Center? (Ch. 20-21)
- How does the attack on the Islamic Center affect Amina and her family? (Ch. 21-22)

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During Reading: (continued)

- Why do you think Amina playing the piano had such a big impact on her family and friends? (Ch.22)
- How does the community react to the attack on the Islamic Center? (Ch. 23)
- How does the attack on the Islamic Center bring the community together? (Ch. 23-24)
- Why do you think Amina finally feels confident to perform in front of others? (Ch. 24-25)

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Amina's friends and local community came together to support the Islamic Center after the attack. What are some ways you could help support a friend if something bad happened?
- Amina had to build courage to participate in the Quran recitation competition and sing with her school group. What is something you are scared to do? How could you prepare yourself to conquer your fears?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to read the sequel, *Amina's Song*.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.