

Lost & Found: Based on a True Story
Discussion Guide
Grades 2 - 5

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

- What challenges do you think someone might face when moving to a new country?
- What would it be like to not speak the language of the place you're living?
- Have a discussion about ways to make friends in new social situations.

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

- What did Mei You choose to pack for Canada? Why do you think she packed these items? Reflect on how these items represent her connection to her life in China and how they might comfort her in a new country.
- How do the illustrations and text add to the effect of Mei You feeling different? Pay attention to the artist's use of color, facial expressions, or any imagery that highlights Mei You's emotions or experiences.
- Describe the differences Mei You has experienced moving from China to Canada.
- How does Mei You feel being dropped off at her new school?
- Describe Mei You's first day of school and all of the hurdles she encountered due to her language barrier.
- How does Mei You teach herself english words?
- What happened to her sketchbook?
- How does Mrs. Dunson help Mei?
- How did Maggie use Mei's sketchbook to communicate?
- How did Mei's confidence improve? Highlight key moments and relationships that helped Mei You overcome her fears and embrace her new environment.

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After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- What challenges did Mai You overcome, and how did they help her see herself or her family differently?
- Utilize RIF's Influences on a Character to determine the influences on Mai You.
- Writing Activity: Write a letter from Mei You to her family back in China. In this letter, Mei should:
 - Reflect on her experiences moving from China to Canada, especially the challenges of learning a new language and adapting to a new culture.
 - Describe her feelings about her first day of school, including the difficulty she faced and the support she received.
 - Share how she is learning English and the strategies she's using to communicate better.
 - Explain how her sketchbook helped her, and how her confidence has grown since arriving in Canada.

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.