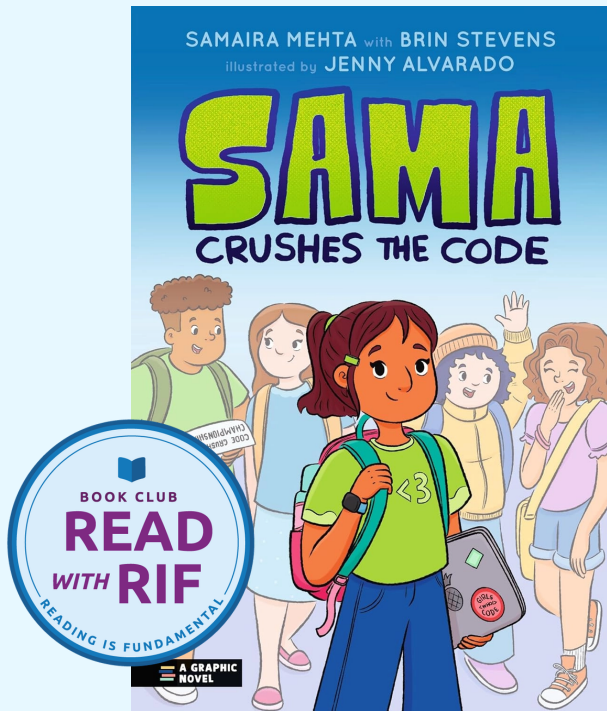




Samaira Mehta

Sama Crushes the Code

Why read this book?

Sama joins Tech Club hoping to share her passion for coding and building, but she doubts her abilities when her ideas seem overlooked. With support from a new friend, she gains confidence and creates a unique coding game, learning that creativity, perseverance, and her own ideas have value. Inspired by young tech entrepreneur Samaira Mehta's real-life experiences.

Great for readers who...

- Enjoy STEM stories, especially coding, technology, and creative problem-solving
- Like books about trying new things, building confidence, and overcoming challenges
- Enjoy realistic fiction featuring friendships, teamwork, and personal growth
- Are learning about perseverance, creativity, and believing in their own ideas
- Like characters who face self-doubt and discover their unique strengths and abilities



Looking for your next great read?

Check out all of the Read with RIF book club picks at rif.org/literacy-central.

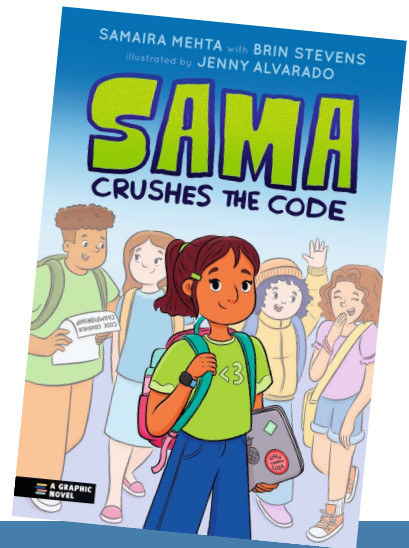
Sama Crushes the Code

Author: Samaira Mehta

Illustrator: Jenny Alvarado

Themes: Creativity, Perseverance, Friendship, Problem-Solving, Confidence, STEM

Book Brief: Sama loves coding and problem-solving, but she must learn to believe in her ideas when she joins a competitive Tech Club.



BEFORE READING

To activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Ask, “Have you ever had an idea you were excited about but felt unsure if others would like it? What helped you keep going?”
- Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how Sama responds to challenges and how she learns to believe in her own ideas.”

DURING READING

To engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

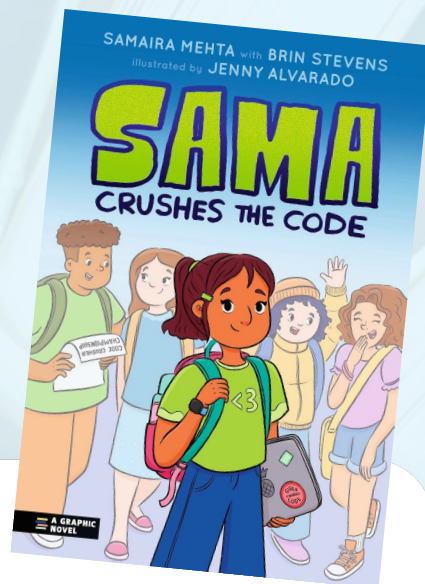
- What challenges does Sama face when she joins Tech Club? How does she respond?
- How do Sama’s feelings about her coding skills change throughout the story?
- How does friendship help Sama gain confidence and keep trying?
- What does Sama learn about creativity, problem-solving, and sharing her ideas?
- How does Sama show perseverance and growth by the end of the story?

AFTER READING

To summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask, “How does Sama respond to challenges she faces, and what does she learn about confidence, creativity, and perseverance?”
- Have students design their own invention, game, or solution to a problem they notice. Students can draw their idea, explain how it works, and share what problem it solves.
- Use the questions on the next page to continue the conversation after reading. Talk together, share personal connections, and explore how the themes in the story connect to real life. There are no right or wrong answers, just thoughtful discussion and listening.

Beyond the Book: Conversation Starters



For the classroom

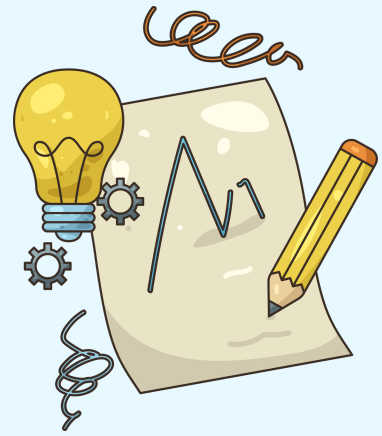
1. How can trying something new help us discover our strengths and build confidence?
2. How can we support others who are learning a new skill or facing a challenge?
3. How does Sama's experience show the importance of perseverance, problem-solving, and believing in yourself?

For at home

1. Talk about a time you learned something new. What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them?
2. Discuss a goal you have for yourself. What small steps can you take to make progress?
3. Share ways your family can encourage each other to try new things, solve problems, and keep going when something feels difficult.

Dream It, Design It!

You are an inventor or game designer! Create something new that solves a problem, helps people, or makes life more fun. Explain what you created, how it works, and why people would want to use or play it.





A full-page sheet of graph paper featuring a uniform grid of small squares. The grid is composed of thin, light blue lines on a white background. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.
