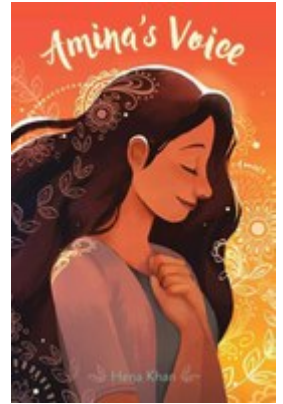


Discussion Questions for "Amina's Voice"

Discussion questions for the 2019 Kids All Iowa Reads selection, "Amina's Voice" by Hena Khan.

[Download a printable PDF of Discussion Questions.](#)



- Family and friendships are an important theme in Amina's Voice. In the beginning Emily is not friends with Amina and Soojin, but by the end of the book they are all friends, what happened and why?
- The idea of Soojin changing her name when she officially becomes a U.S. citizen really bothers Amina. How would you react if one of your friends wants to change their name and asks for your support?
- Emily stops being friends with Julie and becomes friends with Soojin and Amina. Have you ever changed friend groups? How did the old/new friends react, were they kind or mean?
- Amina keeps secrets for Mustafa and Emily. Do you keep secrets for friends or family members? Is it hard to keep secrets from people who are close to you? When should you not keep a secret?
- What tragic event takes place in the novel? Amina and her family are scared and angry, so what advice would you give them to deal with their feelings?
- Amina, Soojin and Emily come from different cultural backgrounds. Kids at school bully them for their differences. Have you ever been bullied or watched someone else being bullied? What was your reaction, and how did you feel?
- How would you encourage Amina to sing for the school event?
- Mustafa wants to play basketball, but his parents are not supportive. Why is it so important to Mustafa to play basketball? Does it change who he is or his religious beliefs?

Questions from *Disrupting Thinking - Why How we Read Matters*

Disrupting Thinking - Why How we Read Matters by Kylene Beers and Robert Probst presents a vision of what reading and what education across all the grades could be. In brief, whether fiction or nonfiction, they are encouraging students to read beyond the page. The goal should not be to "teach" the book, but to have rich conversations; *Disrupting Thinking* highlights ideas on how to develop those discussions. [Listen to the authors in a short podcast.](#)

Reading should be disruptive - make us think. When you read, think about what is...

In the book

- What's this about?
- Who's telling the story?
- What does the author want me to know?

In your head

- What surprised me?
- What does the author think I already know?

- What changed, challenged or confirmed my thinking?
- What did I notice?

In your heart

- What did I learn about me?
- How has this text changed my thinking about the world?

"We read to learn more about ourselves. We read to become more than we knew we wanted to be. (p. 71)

"Making sure readers read beyond the words of the page" (p. 70)