



Solving for M

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Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions

1. What is your favorite subject to learn about in school? What is your least favorite subject? Do you enjoy learning about Math? Why or why not?
2. Look at the cover of the book, make a prediction about what this book will be about. What do you think "Solving for M" means?
3. Individually or with a group, make a list for each of the following: Characteristics of a good teacher, a good student, and a good friend. Once you are finished, discuss how these characteristics are similar and how they are different. Are there any characteristics all three people have? Why do you think that is?

Post-reading questions

1. Why do you think Mr. Vann wants students to keep a math journal? How does her math journal help Mika handle what her mom is going through with her health? How do the math journal's help Mr. Vann connect with and learn about his students?
2. How does being in different pods affect Mika and Ella's friendship? How can you stay friends with someone you don't see on a daily basis? What advice would you give these two to help them remain friends?
3. What happens to the time Math class starts throughout the book? Why do you think this is?
4. Compare and contrast the notes Mika's teachers write on her progress reports. Why do you think they differ? How does Mr. Vann stand out as a teacher?
5. Why does Mika's mom have to go to the doctor? How does this make Mika feel?
6. Discuss this quote from page 101, "I used to think it was cool to stay home alone, but now it feels like I'm alone a lot of the time, even when Mom is here." Why do you think Mika is feeling alone? Is it possible to feel alone even when people are around you?
7. How do the holiday's differ for Mika and her family once her mom gets sick? We're there any positives to how things were different?
8. Describe Mika's birthday.
9. How do the adults in Mika's life talk to her about her mom's cancer? How do you think Mika would prefer to be talked to and treated in regards to her mom's health condition?
10. How does Mika do on the Math test Principal Mir insists the students take? Why do you think she does so well?
11. Were you surprised at how the story ended? Discuss Mr. Vann "looping", the girls going on a trip together, and what you think the future holds for Mika, her mom, and the Calculators.

Post-reading activities

1. Mika's favorite painter is Monet. With the help of your teacher, use a computer to look at some paintings done by Monet. Which is your favorite? How do you think the author incorporated Mika's favorite painter into the cover of the book?
2. With the help of a parent or teacher and the novel *Solving for M*, do some research on melanoma. Once you've gathered your information, create an infographic displaying all you have learned using numbers, pictures, and words. Submit your completed infographic to the Tome Society Infographic Competition.

More About This Book

Author's Website: www.jacobsandswender.com

“Tough Topics” Educator’s Guide from Publisher:

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