



Where I Belong

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Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions

1. Based on the cover and title, what do you think this book will be about? Why?
2. The main character and her family are from Guatemala. Do a little research on Guatemala and reasons people immigrate to America from Guatemala. What did you find?
3. Are you bilingual? Do you know anyone who is bilingual? What are the positives and challenges to being bilingual?

Post-reading questions

1. What impact did Mr. Brody have on Millie? Both negative and how does Millie use that impact to drive her to success?
2. At the beginning of the story Millie feels like the first months of her life in Guatemala are "like an anchor weighing down her entire life". How does this opinion change over the course of the book?
3. How do you feel about Charlie and his family's ignorance/well meant intentions that always seem to hit off the mark?
4. Charlie says that a life is measured by its donation not its duration. How does Millie react to this quote? What does she mean by "What do you do when you have nothing to give?" What does Millie decide to "donate" to others? (p. 20-21)
5. Compare and contrast Millie and her mom's pride about their journey to America.
6. Discuss this quote, "People like Charlie and Oscar keep using me as a case study of an inspiring, admirable immigrant....wouldn't feel nearly as heartbroken to see us suffering." (p. 102)
7. In what ways do Millie and Charlie have to deal with family responsibilities? Any similarities? Differences?
8. How does this book relate to the Tome theme for the year, Brave on Purpose? How do Millie (and other characters) embody being "brave on purpose"?

Post-reading activities

1. This year's theme is "Brave on Purpose." Write an essay about how *Where I Belong* relates to this theme. Follow the guidelines at tomesociety.org/competitions and submit your final work to the Theme Essay competition.
2. Immigration is a big theme in this book. With a partner or group, research immigration and immigration policies. Assemble your findings into a Current Issues portfolio and presentation. Follow the Tome guidelines and submit your final work to the Current Issues competition.

More About This Book

Author's Website: <http://marciamickelson.com/>

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