

Welcome to the 2017-2018 year of Girls Leadership Book Club! In this first meeting, your group will get to know each other (if you don't already), you'll pick a group name, and, most importantly, you'll share your thoughts about this month's book, *Amina's Voice*.

As you discuss this book, first with your girl and then with your club, you might find yourself connecting on a personal level with the changes and challenges that Amina faces as she starts middle school. I hope that your book club is a place where young readers and grown-ups, alike, feel comfortable sharing the stories from their own experiences.

Most book clubs will meet in members' homes, alternating each month. When you meet, the whole group will have already read the book. Grown-ups and girls might read together or independently; either one is totally fine. It's a good idea to have copies of the book on hand for reference if possible. Grown-up and girl pairs should take turns leading the meetings. This will involve choosing discussion questions to start off the meeting, drawing out quieter voices, and keeping an eye on the time. Don't worry too much if some participants are hesitant to share during this first meeting. Some people need one or two meetings to warm up.

On the following pages, you will find some suggestions for how your book club meeting might go. Feel free to use whichever of these questions and tips works for you, and substitute as you wish. The best book discussions develop organically as people listen closely and respond to each other.

### **Munch 'n' Chat, 20-30 minutes**

As grown ups and girls arrive, allow some time for snacking and catching up. Snacks don't have to be fancy at all; it can be as simple as a picnic blanket in the backyard, or sitting around the coffee table eating popcorn and lemonade.

### **Ice-Breaker, 10-15 minutes**

Girls and grown-ups might ask each other a question, such as: **"If you could hang out with one fictional character for the day, who would it be?"** Give five minutes for pairs discussion. Then, give 5-10 minutes for grown-ups and girls to introduce each other and share a bit about each other's answers. It

might sound something like, “This is my mom. Her name is Shannon. She would love to hang out with Wonder Woman.”

Since this is the first meeting of the year, gather everyone before so you can go over ground rules. It’s helpful if the club members are all on the same page about expectations, particularly when it comes to privacy. Our **Book Club Mad Libs** can help with this, and will also help you give your club a fun name.

### **Book Discussion, 30 minutes or so**

These questions about *Amina's Voice* might help you begin your book talk. Some groups might have time to get to all of these questions, but many groups will pick one or two questions and spend the whole meeting discussing those. Feel free to write your own discussion questions.

- What kind of person is Amina? How do you know? Are there any clues in the book about what kind of person she is?
- Amina doesn’t want her friend Soojin to like Emily. Why is that? If you were Amina, what would you do?
- Singing makes Amina feel powerful. What makes you feel powerful?
- Amina’s family keeps many Islamic traditions. How does Amina feel about these traditions?
- Why does Amina tell Bradley about Emily’s crush?
- Why do Amina’s feelings about the competition change after the crime at the mosque?
- What kind of friends do Emily and Susa prove to be? Are there any clues in the book?
- Does Amina change by the end of the book? How?
- Talk about how this book connects to the ideas of empathy and inclusion.

### **Leadership Goals, 15 minutes**

Are there people in your life - maybe in your neighborhood, or at school - who might be feeling lonely, or in need of a friend? Can you show leadership by being inclusive toward that person?

Participants can talk to each other in pairs or as a whole group. Think about setting a goal for the next month. For instance, you might make a plan to invite a new person to sit join your game or lunch table. This goes for grown-ups, too! Report back to the club next month.

### **Closing, 5 minutes**

Before everyone goes off their separate ways, make sure you've chosen a date for your November meeting. Happy reading!

### **Further Reading**

If you really loved this book, and you'd like to read more books like it, here are some suggestions. If there are other books you would like to recommend, we'd love to hear them! Please share them on our **[Girls Leadership Book Club Facebook page](#)** so our community can keep growing our list of great titles.

*Star Scouts* by Mike Lawrence - A graphic novel about a girl who's having trouble making friends at her new school, until she's abducted by aliens.

*Karma Khullar's Mustache* by Kristi Wientge - Karma must navigate big changes in her friendships and family life as she starts sixth grade, all while trying to rid herself of an unexpected problem: 17 hairs that have sprouted on her upper lip.

*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper - Melody cannot walk or talk; due to cerebral palsy, she's lived her whole life in a wheelchair. She has a photographic memory and a brilliant mind, and, as she enters public school, she just wants people to see her for who she is.