

For the second meeting of the 2017-2018 school year, 4th and 5th grade girls and grown-ups will read *Gaby, Lost and Found*, a moving story about a girl whose life is thrown into uncertainty when her mom is deported to Honduras.

As you read this book, one thing you might find yourselves thinking and talking about is the fact that Gaby has lots of people in her life - friends, neighbors, and teachers - who care about her and look out for her. Who are the people are in your own life who step in to help when you're facing your biggest challenges? In your life, who gives you the deepest sense of comfort and belonging? Or, to put these questions into kid-friendly terms, who can you go to when you're having a problem? Who do you know will be there for you, no matter what?

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.

### **Check-In, 10-15 minutes**

Mix up the group so that girls and grown-ups aren't sitting in pairs anymore. Everyone asks her neighbor a getting-to-know-you question, like: "What do you look for in a true friend?"

Give five minutes for pairs discussion. Then, give 5-10 minutes for pairs to share a bit about each other's answers. It might sounds something like, "Jasmine said she likes friends who comfort her when she's upset."

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

These questions about *Gaby, Lost and Found* 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 can you tell about Gaby and Alma’s friendship based on their behavior toward each other?
- What are some ways that Gaby stays connected to her mom even though they’re far apart?
- Why is it so important for Gaby to save Feather?
- Gaby expects her mom to come home any day. What’s her reaction when she finds out that’s not going to happen? How do you think she’s feeling?
- Describe Gaby’s sense of belonging at the end of the book, compared with the beginning.

## **Leadership Goals, 15 minutes**

Participants can talk to each other in pairs or as a whole group about these questions. Who are the people who make you feel like you belong? Who do you know will be there for you no matter what? It’s important to identify those people in our lives, because we all need help at one time or another.

## Closing, 5 minutes

Before everyone goes off their separate ways, make sure you've chosen a date for your January meeting (there's no meeting in December due to holidays and school breaks). Happy reading!

## Further Reading

If you really loved this book, and you'd like to read more 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 Group, so our community can keep growing our list of great titles.

*All's Faire in Middle School* by Victoria Jamieson - This graphic novel from the author of *Rollergirl* is about Imogene, a girl who decides to go to public school after being homeschooled by her Ren Faire family. Swords and dragons are nothing compared to the terrors of middle school drama!

*Gabby Garcia's Ultimate Playlist* by Iva-Marie Palmer - Gabby, the star pitcher for Luther Junior High, is about to complete her second no-hitter of the season when the game is suspended, everyone is evacuated, and the school is closed because of an asbestos situation. Gabby is assigned to a very upscale private school.

*Gertie's Leap to Greatness* by Kate Beasley - Gertie wants to be the best 5th grader ever, to prove to her absent mother that she is worth coming back for.