

It's hard to believe that this is our last book club of the school year. It seems only yesterday, we announced our book selections for the year, excited and hopeful for all of our over 3,000 Girl & Grown-Up Book Club families to read, talk, laugh, and grow together. We're grateful for all the feedback we've gotten from you over the course of the past year, especially for the photos of girls! We love to see girls engaging with each other and their communities, diving into the topic of leadership in their lives. It's hard to believe that this is our last book club of the school year.

To round out the year, 2nd and 3rd grade girls and their grown-ups will read about Mya Tibbs, a cowgirl boot-wearing, lasso-throwing 4th grader. Mya and her best friend Naomi have big plans to win their school's Spirit Week competition and get the grand prize - a pair of VIP tickets to the Fall Festival.

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Since this is the last month of book club for this year, take a moment to reflect on how far you've come. Perhaps you came together as a group of acquaintances who now call yourselves friends. Perhaps you were friends who have deepened your bonds through sharing with and supporting each other. We at Girls Leadership hope that your club will continue to be a big part of each other's lives - and that you'll keep your club going in some way until next fall when we release our next book selections! If you're interested in continuing to meet to discuss great books, try checking out our blog's Book Club archives, browse on A Mighty Girl's website, or check out some of the notable books from the American Library Association.

Munch 'n' Chat, 20-30 minutes

As grown-ups and girls arrive, spend some time catching up. The host family might put out snacks and drinks.

Ice-Breaker, 10-15 minutes

Annie Dillard wrote, “How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.” Whether your book club has been meeting for two years or two months, your choice to be part of this program shows your commitment to your girl, yourself, and your community.

Take a moment to think back on the books you’ve read this year. Which ones have been favorites? Which prompted the best conversation?

Book Discussion, 30 minutes or so

These questions about *The Magnificent May Tibbs: Spirit Week Showdown* might help you begin your book talk. Some groups might discuss all of these questions, but many groups will use only one or two questions to get their conversation going. Feel free to write your own discussion questions.

- What can you tell about the kind of person Mya is at the beginning of the book?
- Why is it so important to Mya to win the VIP tickets?
- Mya and Naomi consider themselves best friends, even though they’ve only known each other for a short amount of time. What do you think about this? Do you think it’s possible for people to become best friends that quickly? Have you ever had an experience like that?
- What do you think of Naomi’s reaction after Mya gets paired with Connie? What does that tell us about her character?
- Why does Mya stop calling Connie and Lisa by their nicknames?
- When does Mya’s idea of Connie begin to change? Have you ever changed your idea about someone like that?
- Does Mya change from the beginning of the story to the end? How?
- How does Mya deal with her disappointment about not getting the VIP tickets? How do you usually deal with disappointments?

Leadership Goals, 15 minutes

Give book club members a few minutes to think independently about leadership. I recommend giving everyone a piece of paper where she can write or sketch about what leadership means in her life. You could ask yourselves how being part of the club changed your idea of leadership, or how you've stretched yourself to be a leader in new ways. You might identify one moment when you practiced leadership skills, or a plan you have for doing so in the near future. Maybe you've tried to reach out to be a good friend, like Anna in *The Year of the Book*, or maybe you've kept up a positive attitude to adapt to change, like Dyamonde Daniel in *Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel*.

After a few minutes of independent reflection, give a chance for book club members to share in pairs or with the group.

Closing, 5 minutes

Consider making some plans for the summer months so your group doesn't lose touch between now and next fall!

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 Group, so our community can keep growing our list of great titles.

Dara Palmer's Major Drama by Emma Shevah - Dara Palmer is obsessed with all things Hollywood. When she doesn't get cast in the school play, she realizes that she doesn't see a lot of people in movies and TV who are Asian like she is (she was born in Cambodia before being adopted by British parents). She decides that she's the girl to change that, and she writes a play and casts herself as the star.

The Great Pet Escape by Victoria Jamieson - This graphic novel was written with younger readers in mind. It tells the story of a bunch of class pets that are trying to escape from the school. Featuring a rag-tag crew of rodents, this is a super funny book from the author of *Roller Girl*.