

Power Forward
Discussion Guide
Grades 2-5

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- What would you do if you had a chance to take part in your dream activity?
- What are some reasons why people lie? Is it ever justifiable to lie to your family?
- Frontload vocabulary: Chapter 1-3 (see vocabulary list)

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Where is the orchestra? What happened there? Why does Zayd say he becomes famous? (Ch.1)
- Which team is Zayd on now? Which team does he want to play on? (Ch.2)
- Who is Naano? How is her relationship with Zayd? (Ch.3)
- What do we know about Zara? Use details from the story to support your thinking. (Ch.4)
- Where does Zayd go if he skips orchestra? Why does he decide to do that? (Ch.5)
- Who is Jamal Mamoo? What is he doing in Zayd's home? (Ch.6)
- What happened this morning in training? Who showed up at the gym? (Ch.7)
- What was the reason that Zayd told Ms. Sterling for missing the orchestra practice? Do you think it's right to lie? What other solution can you think of for Zayd? (Ch.8)
- What is Zayd's parents' decision? Do you think it's a fair one? Why or why not? (Ch.9)
- Where does Nadia come from? Which basketball team is her favorite? (Ch.10)
- What is carom? Have you ever played it before? Do you think it's interesting according to the description? (Ch.11)
- Is Zayd's punishment over yet? Why? (Ch.12)
- Who came to pick up Zayd at school? Where did they go together? (Ch.13)
- What advice does Mamoo give to Zayd? Do you think it is good advice? Why or why not? (Ch.14)
- Is Mamoo's advice helpful? What is Zayd's parents' attitude now? (Ch.15)
- Who is Zayd's role model? What are the reasons why Zayd picked him? (Ch.16)
- What do Zayd's parents value the most? (Ch.17)
- How did Zayd feel before tryouts? How were the tryouts? How did his feel after tryouts? Use details from the story to describe Zayd's feelings. (Ch.18)
- Did Zayd make the gold team? What is the gift Mamoo has prepared for Zayd? Does he like it? How can you tell? (Ch.19)

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After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- What efforts has Zayd made to achieve his dream? Do you think he should give up playing violin? Why or why not?
- When your wishes go against your parents' or family, do you think you should give up on yours or theirs? What can you do when you have different opinions than your parents or family?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.