

¡Sueños! Pursuing the Light!

2022 NCTE ANNUAL CONVENTION | NOVEMBER 17-20, 2022 | ANAHEIM, CA



Friday November 18, 2022

The Power of Persistence

Time: 3:30 PM PST - 4:45 PM PST

Location: 207-B



Discussion Questions

How Does Etta...

Set and achieve positive goals

Etta chooses to believe in her own story and write her comic herself (pg. 300)

Feel and show empathy for others

Etta imagines how it would feel to move far away from home and sticks by her new friend's side (pg. 284)

Make responsible decisions

Etta stops to think and takes her time crossing the columns at the park (pg. 126)

Establish and maintain positive relationships

Etta follows through on her promise to help Eleazar save his dog (pg. 107)



Show a growth mindset

Etta discovers her own strength and learns that she doesn't have to be perfect or invincible to be brave (pg. 255)

Understand and manage emotions

When Etta is feeling anxious and unsure, she works on her comic about Invincible Girl (pg. 11)



Discussion Questions

Set and achieve positive goals

Parker focuses on a goal that makes him feel good and will help his family (pg. 68/69)

How Does Parker...

Feel and show empathy for others

Parker imagines what it might feel like to lose a parent and offers support (pg. 219)

Make responsible decisions

Parker tells his mom where he's going instead of sneaking out (pg. 280/281)

Establish and maintain positive relationships

Parker introduces and includes his old friends, cousins, and new friends (pg. 258)

Show a growth mindset

Parker apologizes for not looking after his sister, and does better in the future (pg. 190)

Understand and manage emotions

When Parker is disappointed and anxious, talking to his dad helps (pgs. 268-271)



Discussion Questions

How Does Mira...

Set and achieve positive goals?

Mira focuses on raising enough money for her cat's diabetes treatment (pgs. 155 - 161)

Feel and show empathy for others?

Mira uses science to find a way to cheer up her dad when he's out of work (pgs. 15 - 18)

Make responsible decisions?

Mira tells her mom that Fig is still sick even though it could mean Fig will go to a new home (pg. 314)

Establish & maintain positive relationships?

Mira realizes her so-called nemesis is actually her friend (pg. 254)

Show a growth mindset?

Mira finally understands why friendships change after her bestie moves, but that they'll both be okay (pgs. 348 - 350)

Understand and manage emotions?

Anxious about her interview, Mira reaches out to her friends from STEM Girls camp (pgs. 230 - 233)



Discussion Questions

How Does Lia...

Set and achieve positive goals

Lia practices and does her best to prepare for the IMA entrance exam (pg.2/3)

Feel and show empathy for others

Lia's heart breaks for Joon and she comforts him (pg. 339)

Make responsible decisions

Lia keeps her phone on so that her grandmother won't worry (pg.179)

Establish and maintain positive relationships

Lia and Joon are excited for each others success (pg. 342)

Show a growth mindset

Lia apologizes for disobeying her parents and understands them better (pg. 294)

Understand and manage emotions

When Lia is scared she remembers the breathing technique her Dad taught her (pg. 68/69)



How Does Your Character...

Set and achieve positive goals

Feel and show empathy for others

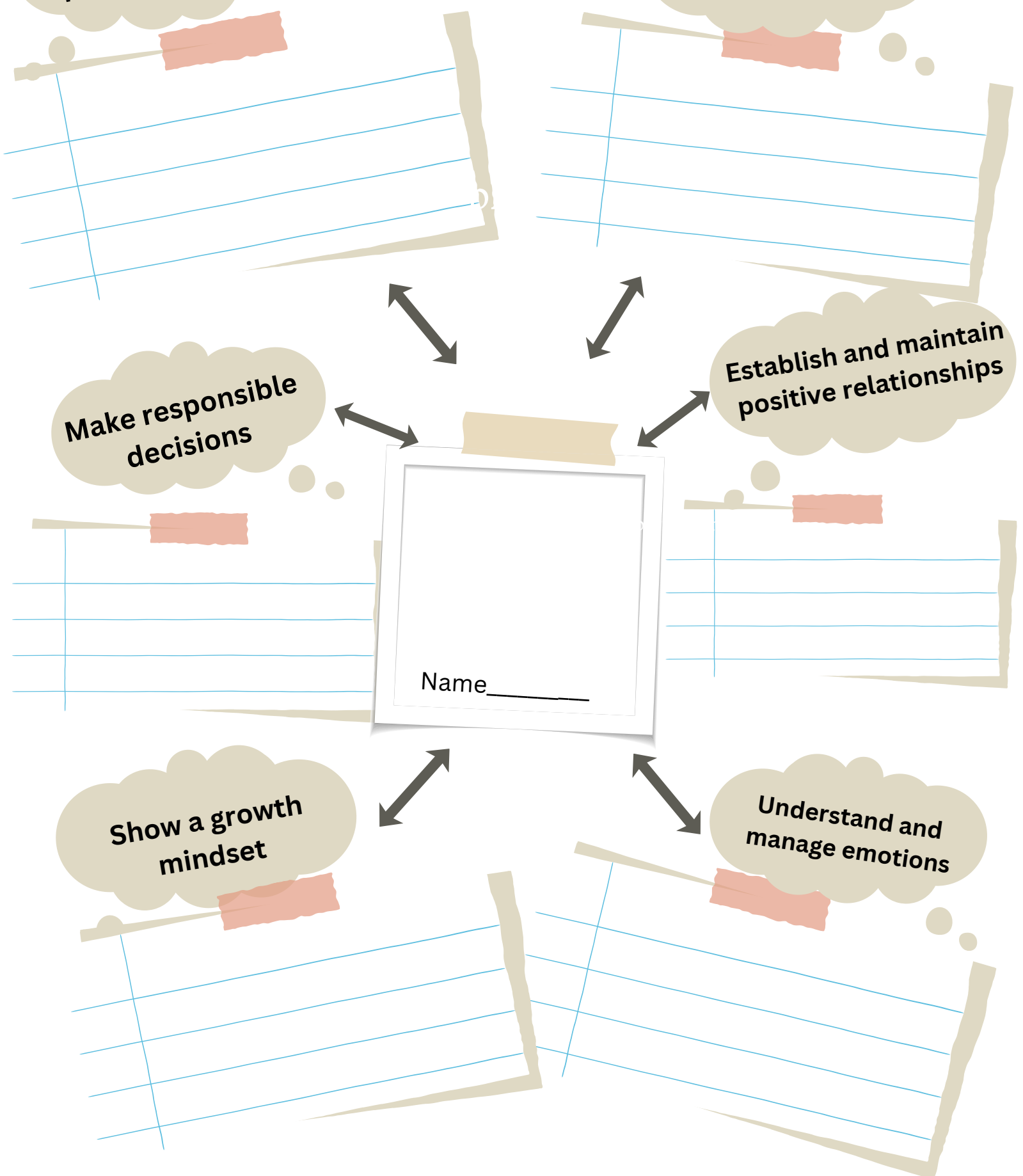
Make responsible decisions

Establish and maintain positive relationships

Show a growth mindset

Understand and manage emotions

Name _____



Perseverance: you can do it!

CHARACTER

ME

What does the main character want/what are they trying to achieve?

What is something I want to achieve or hope to have in the future?

What is a setback the main character faces when they're working toward their goal?

What kinds of things have I tried as I've worked toward this goal that haven't been successful?

What does the main character do when things don't work out and they are frustrated or discouraged?

What do I do when I'm frustrated/discouraged?

Who or what does the character turn to for help?

Who or what can you turn to for help?

What personality traits help the character continue trying?

What are some strengths you have that can help you keep trying?

What might the main character do differently in the future?

What could you do differently in the future?

EMPATHY FOR THE VILLIAN – WHY DO THEY ACT THAT WAY??

Sometimes when people act in a way that is confusing to us, or do things we don't agree with, we wonder *why would they do that?* What makes people behave the way they do?

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When authors create characters, they have to learn everything about them. Not just what they look like on the outside but all their unique qualities on the inside, too. Just like people in the real world, characters on a page react to what's going on in the story based on all the things they've seen, felt, and experienced so far in their life.

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Now, it's your turn. Follow the prompts below to create a character readers will "love to hate"!

Think first: Picture a calm scene, such as a group of kids playing a game. When your character walks in, the whole atmosphere of the room changes. Suddenly, there's chaos. How is your character behaving that is making such a ruckus?

Start with your character's name.

What is your character afraid of (that they'd never tell anyone)?

What is their home life like? Where do they stay, and who do they live with?

What frustrates your character the most?

What is one very sad memory your character has from when they were younger?

What does your character tend to do when they're angry?

What are some words that other people would use to describe your character's behavior?

Why do you think your character behaved the way they did when they 'ruined' the scene you had pictured?

What could someone say to your character that might help them calm down or feel safe?

Etta Invincible

About the Book

In this touching debut middle grade novel, a girl with hearing loss and a boy adjusting to life in a new country connect through their love of comics and get entangled in their own fantastical adventure.

★ "With snappy narration that's rich in sensory detail and metaphor, readers progress through well-paced storytelling that is ethereal and artfully inclusive.

This hopeful adventure leaves an indelible mark." - *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"Through Etta's perceptive first-person voice, Eschmann grounds the train's Hayao Miyazaki-like atmosphere in both children's realities..."
-*Publisher's Weekly*

About the Author

Reese Eschmann holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois-Chicago and worked in schools for six years. When she's not writing or taking naps, Reese enjoys rock climbing, baking, and making movies with her family. She lives outside of Chicago with her husband and their hound dog. Reese is the author of *Etta Invincible* and the *Home for Meow* chapter book series.

Visit her at reeseeschmann.com



Grades 3 – 7
HC: 9781534468375



The Ghost of Spruce Point



Grades 3 – 7

HC: 9781534486119

About the Book

A young boy must unravel a curse to save his family's beloved Maine motel in this "tightly paced" (Publishers Weekly) middle grade novel that is sure to delight fans of *Whispering Pines* and *The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street*!

"...a supernaturally tinged mystery with a summer camp vibe." (PW)

"a well-paced mystery with a strong sense of place and solidly developed, realistic relationships." (Kirkus)

About the Author



Nancy Tandon has worked as a teacher, a speech-language pathologist, and an adjunct professor of Phonetics and Child Language Development, all of which helped plant seeds for stories about awesome kids doing brave things. Her debut middle grade novel, *The Way I Say It* was an American Booksellers Association Indies Introduce and Indies Next pick as well as a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. Nancy lives with her family in Connecticut.

Visit her at www.nancytandon.com

Sir Fig Newton and the Science of Persistence

About the Book

From the Desk of Zoe Washington meets *Ways to Make Sunshine* in this heartfelt middle grade novel about a determined young girl who must rely on her ingenuity and scientific know-how to save her beloved cat.

★ "[Sonja] Thomas' debut will pull at readers' heartstrings. A noteworthy debut." - *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"Middle grade readers looking for realistic stories with engaging protagonists will enjoy meeting Mira, a girl whose passion for science gives her a sense of purpose and the tools to solve problems." - *School Library Journal*

About the Author

Sonja Thomas writes stories for readers of all ages, often featuring brave, everyday girls doing extraordinary things. *Sir Fig Newton and the Science of Persistence* is her debut middle grade novel. She's also a contributing author for *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 Real-Life Tales of Black Girl Magic*. Her next stand-alone middle grade book is scheduled for publication in spring/summer 2024 with Aladdin.

Visit her at bysonjathomas.com



Grades 3 – 7

HC: 9781534484924



Lia Park and the Missing Jewel



Grades 3 – 7

HC: 9781534487932

About the Book

Perfect for fans of *Storm Runner* and the *Aru Shah* series, this thrilling middle grade fantasy follows a young girl who must venture to the undersea kingdom of the Dragon King in Korea to save her parents from an evil diviner spirit.

"Fun and fast-paced, this debut novel will please the Rick Riordan Presents crowd."
Booklist Online

"An intriguing, fast-paced adventure." *Kirkus Reviews*

"Lia Park is an exciting new protagonist in the fantasy adventure scene." *School Library Journal*

About the Author



Jenna Yoon studied Art History at Wellesley College and received her Masters degree in Korean Art History from Ewha Woman's University. She's lived about half her life in both Korea and the United States. When she's not writing, Jenna loves to travel, find yummy eats, play board games and takes skin care very seriously. Currently, she lives in Austin, Texas with her husband and two kids. LIA PARK AND THE MISSING JEWEL is Jenna's debut MG book.

Visit her at authorjennayoon.com