

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE





ABOUT THE BOOK

LOVE IN ENGLISH is a young adult novel layered with themes of cultural identity and finding your voice in any language.

With playful and poetic breakouts exploring the idiosyncrasies of the English language, Love in English tells a story that is simultaneously charming and romantic, while articulating a deeper story about what it means to become “American”.

Bank Street The Best Children’s Books of the Year 2022 Edition

YALSA 2022 Best Fiction for Young Adults (see full list [here](#))

YALSA’s 2022 Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults (see full list [here](#))

An Indie Next Pick for Spring, 2021

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maria E. Andreu is the author of Love in English (Balzer + Bray, 2021), an Indie Next Pick and Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection.

Her debut young adult novel, The Secret Side of Empty is a Junior Library Guild Selection, a National Indie Excellence Book Award winner, an International Latino Book Awards Finalist and has been called “captivating” by School Library Journal. Maria is Latinx and Argentinian-American and currently lives in New Jersey just outside New York City. Her work has been informed by her experiences as a formerly undocumented, non-native English speaker and immigrant to the U.S.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The novel is written in first person, in English, from the point of view of a non-English speaker. What devices does the author use to simulate the experience of the non-native English speaker? Do they work? If so, why? If not, what else would have helped you as the reader experience what the main character, Ana, is feeling?
- Love in English plays with the idiosyncracies of the English language. What are some of your early memories with trying to decipher English spelling and pronunciation?
- The novel explores what it's like to move to another country. What are some issues Ana faces? How is her experience different from her mother's? Her father's? How does her experience of being Latina differ from her new friend, Altagracia's?
- Ana considers herself a poet in her native country, but struggles to find the right words in the U.S. How do our skills help us define who we are? How do we keep a sense of identity when those skills change, or we feel we don't have access to them, like Ana feels in the novel?
- Ana is interested in two boys in the novel. What do each of the boys represent to Ana? Are her perceptions of them accurate? What does she not see about them? What does she project onto them?
- What words would you put in your own glossary of happiness?