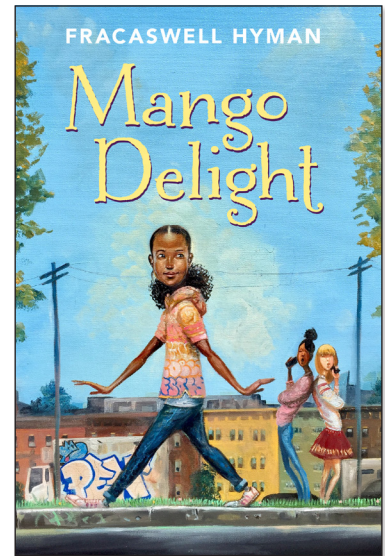


LET'S DISCUSS . . .

STERLING
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS

Mango Delight

This discussion guide is designed to help parents, teachers, librarians, and booksellers explore the story's ideas, themes, and meaning with middle-grade readers.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

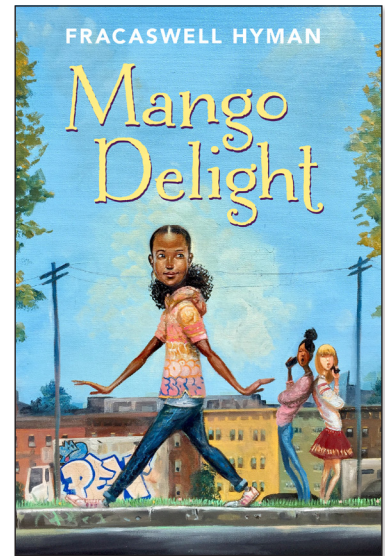
1. *Mango Delight* is told from a first-person point of view. How does this affect the story and the information that you find out?
2. At the beginning of the book, Mango and Brooklyn are best friends. Compare and contrast Mango and Brooklyn. What traits do they share? What traits make them different?
3. When Hailey Joanne and the Cellbelles are making fun of Mango's name and the fact that she doesn't have a phone, do you consider that bullying? How did Mango react in that situation? Would you have done anything differently?
4. Mango is falsely accused of destroying Brooklyn's phone on purpose. Why do you think she refused to tell the whole story of what happened? How would the story have changed if she told the truth about the "phone drowning" incident right away in the principal's office? Do you think Mango was right in keeping the truth hidden to spare her mother's feelings?
5. Mango feels responsible for her father losing his job and sets out to do whatever is necessary to get him the job catering Hailey Joanne's party. What other actions could she have taken to help her family?
6. In the beginning, Mango dislikes Hailey Joanne, but as the story progresses, her feelings change. Why doesn't Mango like Hailey Joanne in the beginning? What characteristics of Hailey Joanne cause Mango to change her opinion?
7. In the beginning of the book, Mango has only one friend, Brooklyn Minelli, and when their friendship ends Mango feels alone. How would you feel in that situation?
8. Mango loses her best friend and sets out to find new friends and also discover what kind of friend she wants to be. What kind of friends do you want? What kind of friend do you want to be? How do you know?
9. Mango believes she has a good reason to pretend to be friends with Hailey Joanne, but does she? What, if anything, would justify you being a fake friend? What should Mango have done differently to help her father get the job catering Hailey Joanne's party?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Continued)

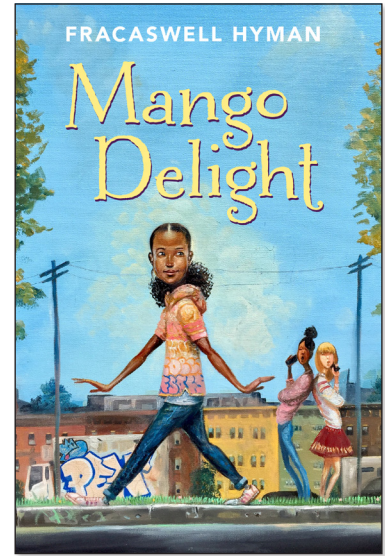
10. When Mango finds out Hailey Joanne likes TJ, the same boy Mango likes, she is devastated. Why would it be difficult for two friends to like the same person in a romantic way and still be friends?
11. Which character, Mango, Brooklyn, Izzy, TJ, Hailey Joanne, Boss Chloe, would it be more fun for you to hang out with? Why? Imagine a day hanging out with that character. Where would you go? What would you do? Which character could you never see yourself hanging out with?
12. Dada says Mango and her mother are very similar. Why do you think they clash so frequently if they share the same characteristics?
13. It seems that all of the main characters in the story, Mango, Hailey Joanne, Izzy, and TJ have “faked” something at one time or another, either to get something they wanted, or to spare someone’s feelings. Is it ever right to be “fake” with a friend? What kinds of things would excuse it? What sort of things would be inexcusable?
14. Do you think Mango’s friendship with Hailey Joanne will last? If yes, why? If no, why not?
15. How much time do you think it should take before you genuinely accept someone as a true friend? What are the qualities you look for in a true friend? What qualities do you want to exhibit yourself?
16. Has Mango changed by the end of the story? If yes, how? Were the changes for the better? Contrast the girl she is at the beginning of the story with the girl she is at the end. If you don’t believe Mango has changed? Why not? What aspects of her character are the same as they were in the beginning of the book? What would she have to do to change?
17. List the major turning points in the story, the places where things changed and would never be the same again.

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Bob Levy and Mr. Ramsey took a famous story, *Romeo and Juliet* and turned it into a contemporary musical. Would you agree or disagree that *Romeo and Juliet* would make a good musical? Why? Why not?
2. What book, movie, or TV show do you feel would transfer well to a musical? For example, would *The Fast and the Furious* make a good musical? How about *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*? *Harry Potter*? Ask students to choose a favorite book, movie or TV series and change it into a musical. What would the song titles be? Would the ending of the story change? Who would you cast in your musical if you could use well-known actors?
3. Write a scene from “Yo, Romeo!” Cast it, rehearse it and perform it for your class.
4. Write the lyrics to “Duet Forever” or any song you imagine would be included in a production of “Yo, Romeo!”
5. Do you consider yourself a chef or do you have one meal that is your specialty? Write down the recipe or give verbal instructions to your class. What makes your meal stand out from the rest? Do you improvise on the original recipe to make it your own? How?
6. Mango is crazy about Beyoncé. Who is your favorite star? Write a story about why he or she is your favorite. Imagine meeting him/her. What would you say? What would you do? How do they inspire you? How would you like to spend the day with this person?
7. Imagine Mango and Brooklyn meeting again, say in a doctor or dentist’s waiting room or any place where they couldn’t just walk out. What would they say to each other? What would they do? Can you imagine a way for them to mend their friendship? What would that be?
8. *Mango Delight* needs a book trailer, similar to the way movies need movie trailers to get an audience interested. Have students create a storyboard for the trailer they would film. What scenes would they include? What plot points would they tease? Which plots points would they leave out so as not to reveal too much and ruin the turning points in the story? How would they introduce Mango?