



Junior Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

1. Mia recalls how “My mom says it’s important to take pictures of the nice moments in life, even if it’s just in your head.” Why do you think the mom believes this?
2. Mia’s mom says to the school principal that they just moved here from China and later explains that she did so hoping the principal would cut Mia some slack. Why isn’t Mia happy about that?
3. One of the customers at the motel doesn’t want to listen to Mia, because she’s a kid. Has that ever happened to you before, where an adult didn’t want to listen to you or believe you, because you were a kid?
4. Mia could write about Uncle Ming and the loan sharks, and she feels a great urge to. But instead, she writes about puppies and houses. Why do you think she did that?
5. When Lupe and Mia first meet, they’re not entirely honest with one another. What does that do to a friendship? Why are they so happy and become better friends when they do become honest?
6. Mia’s dad says “a mistake isn’t always a mistake... Sometimes a mistake is actually an opportunity, but we just can’t see it right then and there.” What are some of the ways this statement holds true in the book? Can you think of any examples in your own life where this is true?
7. Lupe gives Mia a note that says, “You can’t win if you don’t play.” What does she mean by this?
8. In the Author’s Note, Kelly Yang describes her personal connection to Mia’s story and the real history behind it. How does reading this note change and/or add to your reading experience of the novel?

The above questions were taken from https://www.frontdeskthebook.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/DiscussionGuide_FrontDesk.pdf to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Kelly Yang is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of over 14 books for children, teens and adults, including the Front Desk series. Kelly immigrated to America when she was 6 years old and grew up in Southern California, where she and her parents worked in three different motels. She went on to go to college at the age of 13 and law school at the age of 17. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley, where she majored in Political Science, and Harvard Law School. She lives with her husband, three children, and two dogs in Los Angeles.

<https://www.kellyyang.com/>

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