

Drita, My Homegirl by Jenny Lombard

Booktalk:

Drita and her family move to N.Y. City from Kosovo. She doesn't speak any English, so how can she survive in her new 4th grade class? Then she's paired with Maxie for a class project. Maxie is a native New Yorker who can't seem to stay quiet in school – what could they possibly have in common? Somehow, a friendship forms and they overcome their differences.

Questions:

1. How is this book written differently than most? (every other chapter, told from 2 main character's viewpoints) Did you like that? Or not? Why or why not?
2. Where is Drita from? (Kosovo)
3. Who is she here with? (Her family: parents, grandmother and little brother)
4. What's wrong with her mother? (Depression, leaving relatives, not knowing if they are o.k., stress)
5. Who does Maxie live with? (Dad and grandmother)
6. What happened to her mother? (Died in a car accident)
7. Why doesn't she like her father's girlfriend at first? (Thinks her mother will come back – likes things the way they are)
8. What happens when the girls are playing Basketball? (Fight- Brandee hits Drita and Maxi hits Brandee)
9. What book does the principal give Maxie to help her with her class project? (Kosovo)
10. How does Drita help Maxie with her Kosovo project? (Shows her K. on the globe and tells her what her family and others went through)
11. What gift does Maxie get Drita's mother while she's in the hospital and who helps her shop? (Lisa/robe)
12. How does the project get finished? (Maxie speaks to parents and class)
13. Have you made friends with someone from a different country?
14. 14.) Do you think you could?