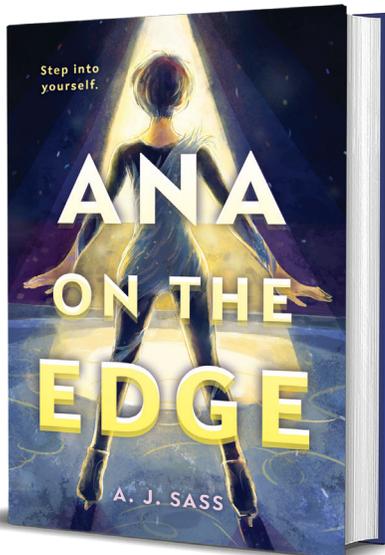


ANA ON THE EDGE

BOOK CLUB GUIDE



Twelve-year-old Ana-Marie Jin, the reigning US Juvenile figure skating champion, is not a frilly dress kind of kid. So, when Ana learns that next season's program will be princess themed, doubt forms fast. Still, Ana tries to focus on training and putting together a stellar routine worthy of national success.

Once Ana meets Hayden, a transgender boy new to the rink, thoughts about the princess program and gender identity begin to take center stage. And when Hayden mistakes Ana for a boy, Ana doesn't correct him and finds comfort in this boyish identity when he's around. As their friendship develops, Ana realizes that it's tricky juggling two different identities on one slippery sheet of ice. And with a major competition approaching, Ana must decide whether telling everyone the truth is worth risking years of hard work and sacrifice.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Ana's mom asks her to start helping out when it comes to paying for practices. What led her to make that request, and why do you think Ana so quickly agreed to help out in this manner?
2. Ana argues that because she is working as a skating assistant, she should be able to make choices when it comes to her program. Should Ana have a say in what her costume, music, and routine all look like? Why?
3. When Miss Lydia shows Ana her new program and makes Ana wear a skirt to practice, should Ana have spoken up about not liking either? Why did Ana choose to keep quiet even though she was unhappy?
4. Why didn't Ana correct Hayden when he called her Alex the first time? Ana had many chances to correct Hayden about the mix up, but why do you think she never corrected him?
5. When Ana first tells Tamar about not liking the princess routine, do you think Tamar was supportive? How would you support a friend if they told you they had to do something they didn't want to?
6. Why is everyone surprised by Ana's hair cut? Do you think it's a big deal that Ana has short hair?
7. Why is it easier for Ana to express herself more freely around Hayden than with anyone else?
8. After the blowup between Tamar and Ana, where Tamar expresses how she feels ignored by her friend, do you agree with Tamar that Ana was being selfish towards her? Why or why not?
9. Hayden says that his classmates back in Minnesota made fun of him when he went back to school with his true name and pronouns. How do you think that made Hayden feel?
10. Everyone in Ana's life is supportive about her coming out, even if they don't fully understand all that Ana is experiencing. Why is this important? How would you support a friend going through the same thing as Ana?