

INDIVISIBLE

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ALEMAN**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Mateo Garcia and his younger sister, Sophie, have been taught to fear one word for as long as they can remember: deportation. Over the past few years, however, the fear that their undocumented immigrant parents could be sent back to Mexico has started to fade. Ma and Pa have been in the United States for so long, they have American-born children, and they're hard workers and good neighbors. When Mateo returns from school one day to find that his parents have been taken by ICE, he realizes that his family's worst nightmare has become a reality. With his parents' fate and his own future hanging in the balance, Mateo must figure out who he is and what he is capable of, even as he's forced to question what it means to be an American.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Mateo's Ma says that he "feels too much" (p. 1). How does this both work for and against Mateo? When do Mateo's feelings, negative or positive, most color his experience?
2. Mateo and his friends all present different versions of themselves to the world. How do they adapt their personalities to fit their surroundings? Why do you think people change their behavior based on their setting?
3. Throughout the book, Mateo wrestles with the cost of the opportunities provided by his parents' sacrifices. How does his perspective compare with that of his parents? How does the pressure to succeed impact Mateo's dreams for his life?
4. Mateo's Ma reminds him of the "'be careful' rule": "Don't say anything. No one can know" (p. 61). How does keeping secrets affect Mateo? What additional stressors does this rule add to his daily life?
5. Mrs. Solis tells Mateo that "sometimes, the only way to be strong is to let someone else carry some of the weight with you" (p. 105). How does asking for help make you stronger? How do communities support their own? When Mateo opens himself up to support from those around him, how does he change?
6. Amy reassures Sophie after a schoolmate makes a xenophobic statement about Sophie's parents. What does it mean to be an ally? How do characters provide allyship to Mateo and Sophie?
7. Multiple characters benefit from intergenerational relationships. How do characters learn from elders, including their own parents and grandparents? In a broader sense, how does the lived reality of one generation improve that of subsequent generations?
8. Each member of Mateo's family experiences Pa and Ma's deportation in different ways. How are their experiences similar? What differences do you see in their experiences?
9. Kimmie and Mateo discuss the expectations other people have of their identities. How do race and sexuality affect the societal expectations placed on young people?
10. Mateo affirms that "no matter how hard they tried to separate us, how much the distance hurt, or how it nearly broke us, we are really, truly indivisible" (p. 386). While physically separated, how do Mateo, Sophie, and their parents try to maintain closeness to one another? What emotional walls complicate those efforts?