

Reading ^{with} Relevance[®]

Building INDEPENDENT READERS and THINKERS

YOUR STUDENT WORKBOOK FOR

The Sun is Also a Star

A novel by Nicola Yoon

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING



This workbook belongs to:

About the Book

The Sun is Also a Star

Story Summary

***The Sun is Also a Star* is a young adult novel that narrates a single day in the lives of Daniel and Natasha, two teens who meet by accident on the streets of New York City and develop a striking, intense connection.** The novel weaves together the stories of the two protagonists with those of “minor” characters, in order to explore larger questions about the nature of the universe, love, fate, and justice. The plot centers around the last day of Natasha’s fight to save her family from their immediate deportation; Daniel is a child of immigrant parents who came to the United States from South Korea. The novel traces the difficulties that both Daniel and Natasha face as members of immigrant families, explores the question of what it means to be an American, and investigates what the “American Dream” means to different people. The novel does not shy away from questions of racism, and explores the personal impact of the assumptions that people make about others based on their race and immigration status.

Nicola Yoon is a young adult novelist who grew up in Jamaica and Brooklyn, New York. In college, she majored in electrical engineering; an elective course in creative writing inspired her desire to become an author. She wrote her first novel, *Everything, Everything*, while she worked at an investment firm, and then turned to writing full-time. *The Sun is Also a Star* is her second novel, and was published in 2016. She now lives in Los Angeles, California, with her husband, a Korean American graphic designer, and their daughter.

About the Author



Session 1

Theme: *Immigration*

Guiding Question: How might it feel to immigrate to a new nation? What might people hope to experience by coming to the United States?

Write a complete sentence for each of the following vocabulary words. Use the definitions provided to make sure you are using these words correctly!



Vocabulary

futile (pg. 3): adj., pointless

snicker (pg. 9): v., to laugh in a teasing way

dire (pg. 19): adj., extremely serious, potentially disastrous

Story Setup

The Sun is Also a Star is a young adult novel that covers a single day in the lives of Daniel and Natasha, two teens who meet by accident on the streets of New York and form a striking connection. The novel uses a "shifting narrative" perspective — weaving together the voices and stories of our two protagonists with a number of minor characters in order to explore larger questions about the nature of the universe, love, and fate.

Read pages 1-26



As you read, keep track of unfamiliar words, inspiring quotes, and questions you have.

Reading Context:

Homo erectus, Cro-Magnon man (pg. 1): both ancestors of modern-day humans. Homo erectus are the oldest known early humans to possess modern human-like body proportions and lived 1.89 million to 143,000 years ago. Cro-Magnon man refers to human ancestors that lived 43,000-45,000 years ago.

Discussion Questions

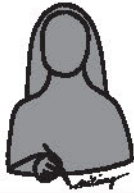


Write your response to each question below using a complete sentence.

- Why will Natasha and her family be deported at 10 p.m.? How do you feel about this?

- According to the book, how is being an immigrant an “act of faith”?

- What is Jamaica like in Mr. Barnes' mind? How does this contrast with Natasha's memories and feelings?



Choose one of these prompts to respond to in at least one full paragraph of writing.

LONELINESS

The characters we have met so far in the book are struggling with feeling alone and hopeless. Natasha even says toward the end of the session, "Do you have any idea what it feels like to not fit in anywhere?" There are times in all of our lives when we feel sad, lonely, and as if we don't belong.

Write about a time when you felt this way.

- » What happened? What made you feel so alone?
- » What can you do when you feel lonely or hopeless? What helps you feel better when you are having those feelings?
- » Who can you turn to for support when you need to feel understood?

EMOTIONS

Natasha has been bottling her anger for months. Despite her insistence that she is "not a cryer," she finally reaches her breaking point, and her feelings explode: "...the tears come. They've been waiting a long time to come out."

What pushes Natasha to finally release and express all of the feelings she's been holding onto?

- » What future American experiences does Natasha grieve over missing out on?
- » What are Natasha's fears about returning to life in Jamaica?
- » How do you think it feels for Natasha to finally release her bottled-up feelings?

Name: _____

What thoughts, opinions, and feelings about immigration do I bring to the reading?

From where have I already learned or heard about this topic?

How does this book approach the topic of immigration?

This was interesting or surprising to me:

What I'd like to know more about is:

How does immigration affect me? How am I personally connected to this topic?

You probably came to today's reading with your own ideas and thoughts about the topic of immigration. *The Sun is Also a Star* will help you to explore, question, and deepen your understanding of this complex topic by seeing the issue through the characters' perspectives. Today's activity asks you to explore what you've already heard and thought about this important issue.

Immigration: Reflection

The background of the page is a repeating pattern of hand-drawn, sketchy shapes. These shapes include various types of leaves, some with prominent veins, and solid circles. The drawings are done in a simple, textured style using grey lines on a white background. The pattern is scattered across the entire page, creating a busy, artistic backdrop for the central text.

Extra Activities for Exploring the Book

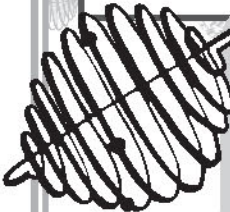
Name: _____

The expository vignette I chose:

What this vignette is about:

What I learned that was surprising or interesting:

How this vignette contributes to the story as a whole:



Throughout the novel, there are a number of expository pieces that provide readers with background information connected to the events of the day — for example, these vignettes teach us about the word *irie*, the science behind half-lives and multiverses, and the history and legacy of Black hair. Look through the book and select the expository vignette that you found the most interesting, relevant, or surprising. Then, analyze the passage you selected, thinking about what it contributes to the story as a whole.

Expository Reflection