

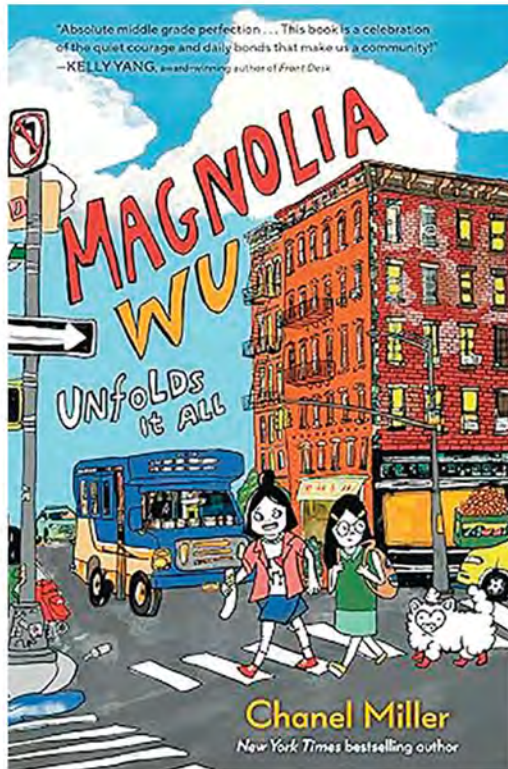
Reading ^{with} Relevance[®]

Building INDEPENDENT READERS and THINKERS

YOUR STUDENT WORKBOOK FOR

Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All

A novel by Chanel Miller



This workbook belongs to:

About the Book

Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All

Story Summary

Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All is a book with themes that deeply resonate with young readers. Magnolia Wu is bored and lonely, spending her hot summer days at the laundromat where her parents work in New York City. She meets Iris Lam, who has just moved to New York with her mom from California. They become friends, and embark on adventures as they try to reunite lost socks with their owners. Getting out and experiencing the world together energizes them both and they develop a strong connection, bringing them closer together. As they work through each sock mystery, not only do Magnolia and Iris gain a deeper understanding of each other, they also grow in their compassion and empathy for other friends and family members, as well as other people in their community.

Chanel Miller is an author and illustrator. She is best known for her memoir, *Know My Name*, which won the 2019 National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiographies. *Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All* is her first children's book and is the realization of her lifelong dream to write and illustrate a story for young readers. Miller grew up in California; her mother moved to the US from China to become a writer, and her father grew up in the US and was a therapist. While her writing does bring to light injustice and cruelty, she also manages to capture joy and hope in her work.

About the Author



Session 2

Theme: Community

Guiding Question: How would you describe your community? Using your senses as a guide, what does your neighborhood look like, sound like, smell like? If you were responsible for helping someone new get to know your community, what spaces and places would you share with them?

Vocabulary

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



stewed (pg. 19): v., worried about something

mesmerized (pg. 22): v., intensely held someone's attention

instinctively (pg. 37): adv., acted based on impulse, without reason

Session 1 Recap

In the last reading session, we met Magnolia Wu, who is about to turn 10. The book opens in summer, with Magnolia at the laundromat where she spends most of her time—her parents have worked seemingly without a break since she was born, and are not always treated kindly by customers. Magnolia has made a bulletin board of lost socks and enjoys thinking about the mystery of the people who owned them before they were left behind at the laundromat. Magnolia is yearning for some adventure and excitement in her life and hopes her budding friendship with Iris can help.



Read pages 19-42



As you read, use this box to draw or write about what is happening in the story.

Reading Context: Consider looking up a video of this exercise to see it in action.

burpee (pg. 23): an exercise in which a push-up is followed by a leap in the air

Discussion Questions



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

- Iris explains that it's sometimes hard to speak up, sharing, "When people start yelling, I get quiet, like my mouth's full of glue" (pg. 23). Can you relate to this feeling?

- Magnolia is embarrassed when she misspells the word exhausted. How do you feel when you make a mistake?

- Luis says that listening makes you a great barber. What else can listening make you great at?



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

SOCK DETECTIVES

Iris suggests that she and Magnolia should track down the owners of all the socks on the missing sock board. Magnolia is genuinely surprised by the idea, reflecting, "It had never occurred to Magnolia to take action to return the socks herself. She thought of life as something that unfolded around her and happened to her while she was content being an observer" (pg. 24).

What do you think about Iris's idea to track down the owners of the socks?

- » If you were in Magnolia's shoes, would you go on this adventure? Why or why not?
- » What parts of being a sock detective do you think would be especially difficult? What parts seem like they'd be the most fun?
- » Make a prediction: where do you think that Magnolia and Iris' adventures will lead them?

OVERWHELM

When Iris and Magnolia head out onto the street, Iris doesn't feel as confident as she felt earlier. Because Iris hasn't lived in a big city before, Magnolia helps her with tips and tricks to adjust and feel safe in the busy world of New York City, advising Iris to break through her overwhelm by focusing on "look[ing] for the little things" (pg. 28) she notices around her.

Write about a time when you were overwhelmed. What did this feel like?

- » What do you think caused this feeling of overwhelm?
- » What strategies or people helped you feel less overwhelmed?
- » What advice would you offer to Iris to help her navigate her overwhelm?

Journal Prompts

Name: _____

Do you agree that an error is a “creative act”? Why or why not?

What is a mistake you have learned from? What happened?

How did you feel in the moment?

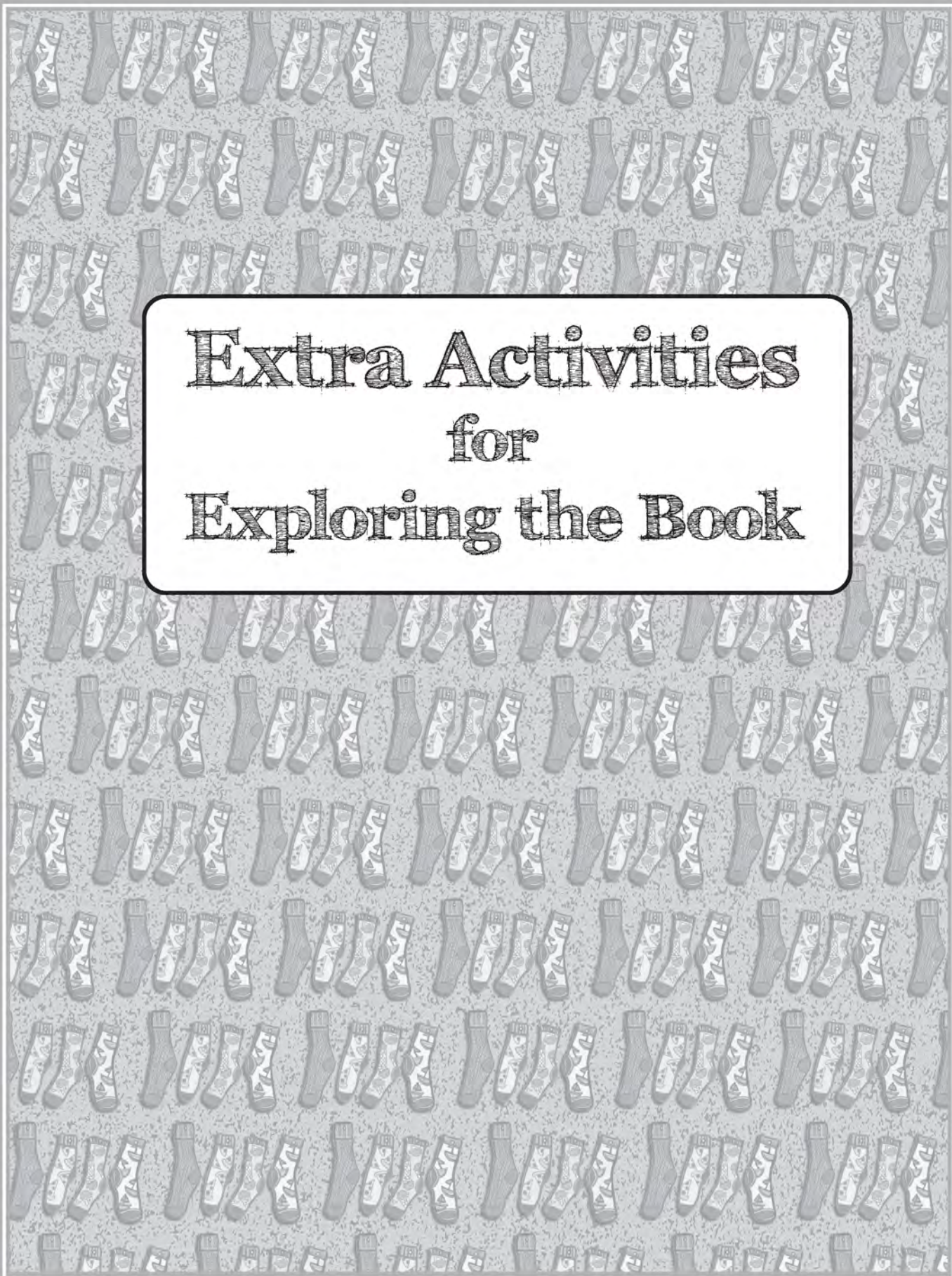
How did you feel later?

What did you learn from the mistake?



Magnolia and Iris make a few wrong guesses about who owns the first sock, but their mistakes lead them to new ideas and they eventually find the right person. In this activity, you will explore an important idea that Lisa introduces—that an error is a creative act.

Making Mistakes



**Extra Activities
for
Exploring the Book**

Name: _____

Pick Three:

- The black-and-white-checked sock
- The pink knitted sock
- The flamingo sock
- The ice cream sock
- The black polka dots sock
- The final plain, dusty sock



Sock 1:

List the clues that led the NYC Sock Detectives to the sock owner.

What new facts or qualities did Magnolia and Iris learn about the sock owner when they returned the sock?



Sock 2:

List the clues that led the NYC Sock Detectives to the sock owner.

What new facts or qualities did Magnolia and Iris learn about the sock owner when they returned the sock?



Sock 3:

List the clues that led the NYC Sock Detectives to the sock owner.

What new facts or qualities did Magnolia and Iris learn about the sock owner when they returned the sock?

Magnolia and Iris find joy and adventure as they navigate the city and try to reunite each sock with its owner. Choose three socks and explain the clues that helped Magnolia and Iris find their owners, and also what new facts or qualities they learned about the person in the process.