



HUMAN
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WELCOMING SCHOOLS
Book of the Month



Ophelia After All

By: Racquel Marie

Secondary Discussion Guide

About the Story

Ophelia After All by Racquel Marie follows biracial Cuban American teen, Ophelia Rojas, as she navigates the emotional complexities of her final months of high school. While well known for her love of flowers and frequent crushes on boys, Ophelia begins to question her identity as her senior year unfolds. Changing relationships and emerging emotions lead her to reassess her beliefs about herself in this story of identity, love in all its forms, and the courage it takes to grow into your most authentic self.

About the Author

Racquel Marie grew up in Southern California, where her passion for storytelling was encouraged by her friends and big family. Marie wrote the first draft of *Ophelia After All* at nineteen while exploring her own queer identity, adding authenticity to Ophelia's story.

Discussion Questions

- ✳ How does Ophelia's coming out journey evolve throughout the novel? How does Ophelia reflect upon her own identity and labels? How can labels be affirming and how can they be limiting?
- ✳ Ophelia navigates conflict in her interpersonal relationships. What does she learn about trust, loyalty, and communication?
- ✳ Why is prom such an important event for Ophelia and her friends, and how does it become more than just a school dance in the story?
- ✳ How do Ophelia's Cuban background and family traditions affect the way she thinks about herself? How can your own family's traditions or culture shape who you are and what people expect from you?
- ✳ How do flowers and gardening symbolize Ophelia's approach to life, her passions, her self-care, and her journey? Do you have a passion or hobby that helps you navigate life?
- ✳ Reflect on this quote and what it means to Ophelia and what it means to you: "I may doubt the truths of the world, but never again will I doubt whether or not the person that I am, or may be, is loved or worthy of love. I know myself, and I don't. Both can be true." (Chapter 25).

Activities

- ✳ Create a flower arrangement or mood board that represents the intersections of your identities.
- ✳ Curate a playlist that captures your self-discovery and what you celebrate about yourself.
- ✳ Design a character and relationship map with Ophelia at the center. Draw lines to show connections—solid for strong bonds, dashed for strained ones, arrows for shifting relationships. Add marks for key events from the story that changed the relationship.
- ✳ Write journal entries from Ophelia, Talia or Sammie's perspective at key points in the novel. Reflect on her thoughts about friendship, identity, and change.



Reading is one of the most powerful ways to model inclusion and nurture empathy. Welcoming Schools created the Book of the Month series to foster compassionate dialogue and elevate joyful stories of authentic LGBTQ+ lives, building monthly engagement and momentum leading up to our National Day of Reading each February.