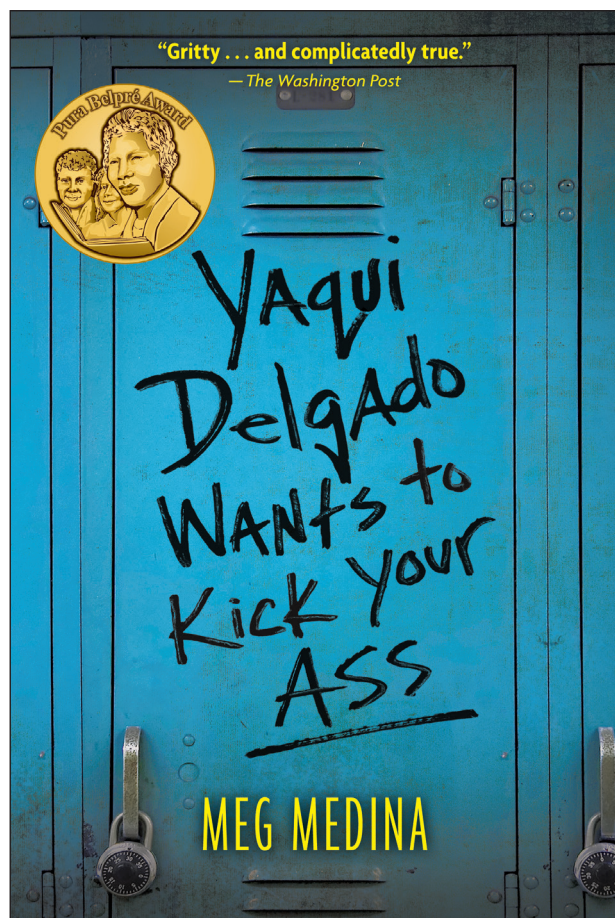


YAQUI DELGADO WANTS TO KICK YOUR ASS

BY MEG MEDINA



HC: 978-0-7636-5859-5 • PB: 978-0-7636-7164-8
E-book: 978-0-7636-6354-4 • Also available in audio

ABOUT THE BOOK

Winner of the 2014 Pura Belpré Author Award

When Piddy Sanchez hears that Yaqui Delgado hates her and wants to kick her ass, the fifteen-year-old doesn't even know who Yaqui is, never mind what she's done to anger her. All Piddy knows is that she better watch her back, because word is that Yaqui isn't kidding around. At first Piddy focuses more on finding out about the father she's never met and balancing her honors courses with her weekend job at the neighborhood hair salon. But as the bullying escalates, avoiding Yaqui and her gang starts to take over Piddy's life. Is there any way for Piddy to survive without closing herself off or running away? In this all-too-realistic novel, an acclaimed writer portrays a sympathetic heroine who is forced to decide exactly who she is — rather than what others want her to become.

Common Core Connections

This discussion guide, which can be used with large or small groups, will help students meet several of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts. These include the reading literature standards for key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integration of knowledge and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL), as well as the speaking and listening standards for comprehension and collaboration and for presentation of knowledge and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL). Questions can also be used as writing prompts for independent work.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* is a title that grabs your attention. What makes it so fitting for this novel?
2. At Piddy's new high school, kids tend to eat lunch with their own kind — blacks with blacks, Latinas with Latinas, and nerds with nerds. Does this also happen at your school? If so, why? Why is there often so little diversity in social groups?
3. On the surface, Lila and Piddy's mother seem like polar opposites, but look deeper. What are the significant differences between the two women? What are the abiding similarities? Why does Piddy need them both?
4. "She thinks we get a bad rap as Latinos," Piddy says about her mother, "which she's always trying to undo by being extra quiet and polite all the time" (page 9). How are Latinas stereotyped in popular culture? Why is Ma determined to set herself and her daughter apart? Would their lives be happier if she didn't?
5. "What's worse?" Joey asks Piddy. "Having no dad or having a mean son of a bitch like mine?" (page 45). How would you answer his question? How would Piddy? Why?
6. Ma is ashamed of her long-ago relationship with Piddy's father. Should she be? Why hasn't she been honest with her daughter? Has the secrecy been more harmful to Piddy than the truth would have been?
7. Salón Corazón, according to the Piddy, is "one part hair salon, three parts social hangout" (page 59). Why do customers flock to the salon? What makes the place so important to Piddy?
8. Many of the women at the salon tell Piddy that she has become a woman, but according to Piddy, "None of them ever sounds too happy about it" (page 63). Why aren't they happy? Consider what might make being a woman difficult from their point of view.
9. *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* is a serious novel, but it can also be very funny. What are some of your favorite comic lines or moments? What do they reveal about the characters?
10. Spanish words and phrases appear throughout this novel. If you know Spanish, translate the words into colloquial English. If you don't, use context to determine meaning. Why do you think the author didn't include a glossary in this book?
11. Best friends in the old neighborhood, Mitzi and Piddy seem headed in opposite directions after Mitzi moves out of Queens. What does each fear that the other is becoming? Are those fears justified? Why or why not?
12. Although Piddy's life is full of strong women, very few men are included. Who are the significant males in her life? Why are they so rare?

13. Why do you think Yaqui Delgado wants to kick Piddy's ass? Does she really think Piddy is after her boyfriend? Is she jealous of Piddy's intelligence? Is she just mean? Does her motive matter?
14. Look closely at the step-by-step bullying that Yaqui and her friends inflict upon Piddy. How does Piddy respond to each stage of this harassment? How does bullying change the way she sees herself and her future? How does it change the way she looks?
15. "It's not fair," Piddy realizes, "that I have to upend my life because Yaqui is bloodthirsty" (page 254). What does Piddy decide is more important to her than fairness? Would you have made the same decision? Why or why not?
16. "What constitutes a revolution?" Piddy's history teacher asks (page 39). Does Daniel Jones High School need a revolution? Who will have to lead it? What are its chances of success?
17. By the end of the novel, Piddy's future once again looks bright. What about Yaqui's future? What do you imagine her adult life will be like?
18. Despite the sign posted outside the guidance office, DJ is definitely not a "Bully-Free Zone" (page 75). Why is bullying so hard to stop? What steps has your community taken to prevent bullying? How effective have they been?

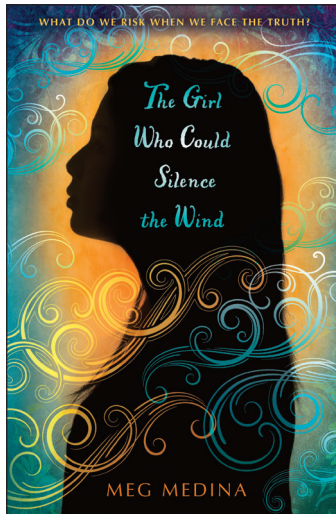
ABOUT MEG MEDINA



Meg Medina grew up in Queens, New York, and was once bullied as a schoolgirl — a searing experience she draws upon in this novel, winner of the 2014 Pura Belpré Author Award. She writes for young readers of all ages; her work examines how cultures intersect, seen through the eyes of young people, and speaks both to the qualities of Latino culture that are unique and to those that are universal. Her favorite protagonists are strong girls. Her first picture book, *Tía Isa Wants a Car*, won the 2012 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award.

In March 2014, Meg Medina was recognized as one of CNN's Ten Visionary Women in America. She now lives in Richmond, Virginia, with her family. When she is not writing, she works on community projects that support girls, Latino youth, and literacy.

ALSO BY MEG MEDINA



The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind

HC: 978-0-7636-4602-8

PB: 978-0-7636-6419-0

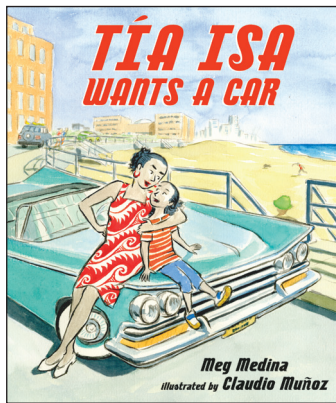
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"Medina's writing is fluent and lovely, weaving Spanish words in with the English text to paint a heartwarming story of a girl's journey to find out who she is." — *School Library Journal*

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HC: 978-0-7636-4156-6

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"The strength of family and the importance of pursuing one's dreams are the bedrock of middle-grade author Medina's lyrical first picture book." — *Publishers Weekly*



"The soft watercolor illustrations mirror rather than extend the text, a real strength for children more fluent in Spanish than English; they can visually follow the narrative told primarily in English but sprinkled with familiar phrases. Beginning readers will also find a satisfying story, with illustrations aiding their reading."

— *The Horn Book*

Also available in a Spanish-language edition

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PB: 978-0-7636-5751-2