

Ask Me No Questions by Marina Budhos
Year 3 Summer Reading Guide

In Year 3, Language and Literature students study texts through the following themes:

- Culture & Belonging
- Approaching Adulthood/Taking a Stand
- A Feast of Figurative Language

This novel was chosen because each of the themes can be seen throughout the text. It also connects us globally by studying literature based on issues faced in other cultures. Our MYP focus is to have students think about issues not only locally, but through the lens on global context. Use this guide to pace yourself on our reading and acquaint yourself with the ideas that will be discussed in class.

Chapter 1:

1. **Culture and Belonging:** Why is the family driving to Canada?
2. **Approaching Adulthood:** What have we learned about the relationship dynamics between Aisha and the narrator?
3. **Culture and Belonging:** Compare and contrast the life that the family led prior to and after 9/11.

Chapter 2:

1. **Culture and Belonging:** What happens once the family reaches the Canadian border?
2. **Approaching Adulthood:** What sort of problems may Aisha and Nadira now face?

Chapter 3:

1. **Culture and Belonging:** Describe five important events in Bengali history and how they have affected Nadira's family.

Chapter 4:

1. **A Feast of Figurative Language:** Why does Nadira say "As if I let the bad parts of America get into my bloodstream like some high-cholesterol poison, fattening me until I'm stupid."
2. **Culture and Belonging:** How did Aisha become accepted at school?
3. **Approaching Adulthood:** Predict how being without their parents will affect the girl's relationship.

Chapter 5:

1. **Culture and Belonging:** How do people at Flushing High School treat illegal immigrants? How do you think they want to be treated?
2. **Approaching Adulthood:** How do Taslima and Aisha both seem to take after their respective mothers?

Chapter 6:

1. **Feast of Figurative Language:** Why does Auntie say “Taslima, she was put on this earth to be a thorn in her father’s side.”
2. **Feast of Figurative Language/Taking a Stand:** Why does Nadira say “It’s like having a new kind of power, black and ugly, like what Uncle did to me this morning. And the weird thing is: I like it.”
3. **Culture and Belonging:** What do Aisha and Nadira learn of their father’s current situation?

Chapter 7:

1. **Culture and Belonging:** Summarize what we learn about Nadira’s family history in this chapter.

Chapter 8:

1. **Taking a Stand:** Who do Aisha and Nadira visit in this chapter and for what purpose? What is the outcome of this visit?

Chapter 9:

1. **Culture and Belonging:** What financial situation is revealed in this chapter? What are the implications of how Abba chose to save his money?
2. **Approaching Adulthood:** How has the relationship between Nadira and Aisha started to transform? What is the reason for this transformation?

Chapter 10:

1. **Culture and Belonging:** Why is the family’s evening disrupted?
2. **Taking a Stand:** Compare and contrast the attitude and behavior of Taslima and Aisha at the station house. Which girl was more effective in her approach? Why?
3. **Culture and Belonging:** What happened to Uncle?

Chapter 11:

1. **Feast of Figurative Language:** What does Nadira mean when she says “it’s like [Aisha] has opened the door and wriggled over to let me into her private world?”
2. **Feast of Figurative Language:** Why does Nadira describe her sister “like a boxer, jabbing and hitting trying her old moves..”
3. **Approaching Adulthood:** Describe what has happened to Taslima and Aisha since their fathers were imprisoned.

Chapter 12:

1. **Approaching Adulthood:** What does Nadira realize about college after speaking to the student at Columbia?
2. Why are Aisha’s teachers concerned? Should they be?

Chapter 13:

1. How does Nadira's story about learning how to swim apply to her family's current situation?
2. Make a prediction about how Nadira is going to spend the \$3,000.

Chapter 14:

1. **Approaching Adulthood:** What was Nadira doing with Tareq? Why didn't she follow through with it?

Chapter 15:

1. **Taking a Stand:** Outline Nadira's actions in this chapter. Did she accomplish what she set out to do? How?

Chapter 16

1. **Culture and Belonging:** How has the family dynamic changed after Abba's return?
2. **Culture and Belonging:** What do you think happened to Ali-Uncle?
3. **Approaching Adulthood:** Why does Nadira think that she was successful in court? What does she plan to do to help her sister?

Chapter 17:

1. **Approaching Adulthood:** What does Aisha reveal in her speech? Why do you think she made that decision?

Chapter 18:

1. **Culture and Belonging:** What was the outcome of Abba's case? What do you think will happen now?