

# FULL LENGTH BOOK EXTENDER: Group Reading Aligned to Common Core

by Matthew Okimi



## Gabi, a Girl in Pieces

By Isabel Quintero (2014)  
Grades For Use: 11-12

### Summary:

Gabi is a Mexican-American High School Senior dealing with the full gamut of experiences faced by teenagers today: Sex and sexuality, love and crushes, abortion and pregnancy, religion and culture, prom and college, body image and family issues, friends and siblings, drugs and rape. In spite of dealing with a host of difficult issues faced by the characters, Gabi's diary and poetry remind us in ways both thought-provoking and amusing, that high school brings together the highest and lowest points of our lives. And those events, as seen through the filter of teenage emotional trauma, will indelibly mark the future.

## Grade 12 Discussion Questions

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.5

**Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.**

How does the author's decision to reveal Cindy's pregnancy early in the book set the tone of the story and provide the lens through which Gabi explores her own questions about sex and relationships? How does Gabi's relationship with Cindy affect her views and decisions throughout her senior year?

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.1

**Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.**

Gabi sees herself as being torn between her Mexican culture and "American" culture, both through her family and her own self-image. In what ways does this exemplify and/or reflect her divided feelings on other issues throughout the book? Is her view on culture related to her views on other issues?

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.6

**Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement).**

Gabi's poem about "boys will be boys" (Quintero, 2014, p. 223) discusses her view that society absolves men and blames women in cases of rape. Does her tone and use of satire enhance or detract from the seriousness of the topic? What examples have you seen in the news or online media that support/refute Gabi's perception of society?

## Grade 12 Activities

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.1

**Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.**

In light of recent incidents of rape and the topic of "rape culture" in North American universities and sport, research and write an essay analyzing current efforts to effect change. What conditions are necessary for change to occur? Explain how people (not limited to those in university and/or sport) can contribute.