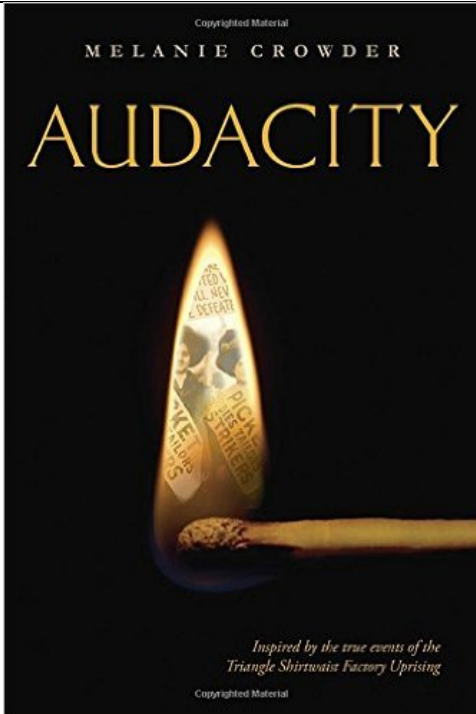


By Faith Carpenter



*Audacity*

Grade 10 Discussion Questions

RL.9-10.3 Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

In small groups, discuss the following questions.

- What does Clara value most in life and how do her values change and develop over the course of the novel?
- What events occur that cause a shift in some of her values?
- What are the five things that you value most in life? Have your values changed or developed as you get older?
- The author provides limited perspective about how Clara’s family feels about her choices. Do you think they were proud of and/or disappointed by her decisions? Support your argument with examples from the story.

Author: Melanie Crowder (2015)

Grades for Use: 7-12

Summary of book:

Due to increasing local anti-Semitism and violence, Clara and her family move from Russia to The United States in 1905. Clara supports her family by working in a garment factory on the Lower East Side in New York City where she is subject to low wages, and unsafe and discriminatory working conditions. In spite of her family’s and society’s objections, Clara fights to organize and start a local union. Under the leadership of Clara and other women, the union eventually goes on to strike in the famous Uprising of the 20,000. This novel in verse is based on true people and events.

Grade 10 Activities

W.9-10.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

- Using authoritative resources, research the Uprising of the 20,000. What impact did the strike have on worker’s rights and the working conditions in factories at the time?
- Working in small groups, create a five minute presentation to inform your classmates about a contemporary activist movement. Research one social or environmental movement of interest to you. Who is involved and who/what is being protected? What do the activists value? How do they communicate their message? How is the movement similar and/or different to historical activist movements like the one with which Clara was involved?