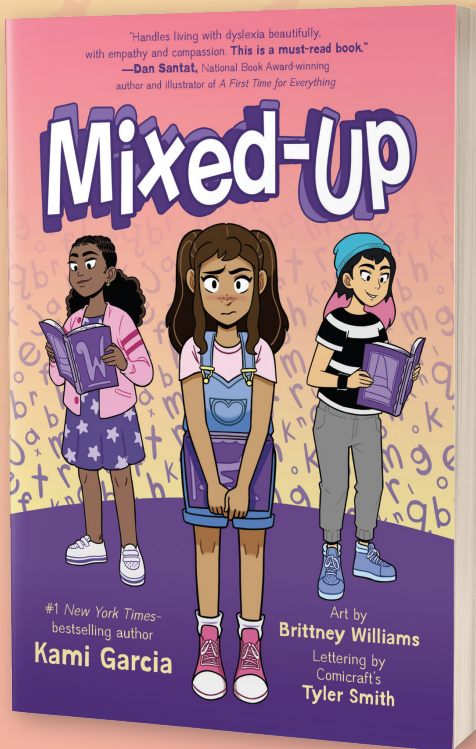


Mixed-Up

DISCUSSION GUIDE



About the Book:

The *New York Times* bestselling author Kami Garcia has returned with a middle-grade graphic novel about the struggles of a game-loving girl who gets diagnosed with dyslexia and her loving support network that helps her in her journey.

Stella knows fifth grade will be the best year ever. Her closest friends, Emiko and Latasha, are in her class and they got the teacher they all wanted. Then their favorite television show, *Witchlins*, announces a new guidebook and an online game!

But when the classwork starts piling up, Stella struggles to stay on top. Why does it take her so long to read? And how can she keep up with friends in the *Witchlins* game if she can't get through the text-heavy guidebook? And when she can't deal with the text-heavy *Witchlins* guidebook, she can't keep up with her friends in the game. It takes loving teachers and her family to recognize that Stella has a learning difference, and after a dyslexia diagnosis she gets the support and tools she needs to succeed.

Kami Garcia was inspired to write this special book by her daughter's dyslexia journey; her own neurodivergent experience; and the many students she taught over the years. With subtle design and formatting choices making this story accessible to all readers, *Mixed-Up* shows that our differences don't need to separate us.

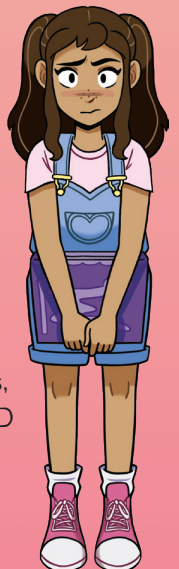


About the Author

Kami Garcia is a #1 *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Publishers Weekly*, and international bestselling author and comic book writer, and an award-winning young-adult novelist. Her best-known works include *Beautiful Creatures*, *Unbreakable*, and *Teen Titans: Raven*. She was a teacher and reading specialist for seventeen years before cowriting her first novel. Garcia lives in Maryland with her family and their dogs, Spike and Oz.

About the Illustrator

Brittney Williams is a storyboard and comic book artist who draws A LOT. In 2012 she interned at Walt Disney Animation Studios as a storyboard artist. Since then, she's worked for a variety of animation studios and publishers, including DC Comics, Cartoon Network, Dreamworks TV, BOOM! Studios, and Marvel Comics. As a two-time GLAAD Award nominee, Williams exists to create things for kids and the queer community.



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1. Stella worries about how people view her, and doesn't want to seem "babyish" in front of her classmates. Why do you think her peers' opinions matter to her so much? Have you ever made a decision based on other people's opinions?
2. Throughout the story, we see that Emiko and Latasha have always been supportive friends of Stella. Why doesn't she think that her best friends would help or be supportive to her when she finds out she's dyslexic?
3. Slowly but surely, Stella's negative feelings about reading start to affect how she feels about her favorite show, Witchlins. Why do you think this change happens?
4. Stella finds comfort in creating a graphic novel for the class project even though she struggles with reading. Why do you think this type of project helps her? Do you have any hobbies that you use as a creative outlet?
5. When Stella gets frustrated, she ends up lashing out at Emiko and Latasha in science class. Why do you think she reacted this way?
6. Miss Marin tells Stella that "every person's brain is unique and all brains work differently." What do you think she means? Is there something about you that makes you unique compared to your peers?
7. Stella's teachers introduce her to a lot of strategies that help her with reading. How do these strategies help the way Stella approaches her schoolwork? How do they translate to her hobbies?
8. Throughout Stella's journey with managing dyslexia, her parents, brother, and teachers are very supportive, and do everything they can to uplift her. How does this contribute to her self-confidence? Can you name the people in your life who have supported you through difficult situations?
9. After Emiko and Latasha read Stella's graphic novel, Stella is inspired to finally open up to them. Did you expect their reaction?

