

WHAT IF YOU HAD NO NAME, NO PAST, AND NO HOME?

CONCEALED

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Novel by: Christina Diaz Gonzalez

Guide created by: Carrie Friday

SUMMARY

Ivette. Joanna. And now: Katrina.

Whatever her name is, it won't last long. Katrina doesn't know any of the details about her past, but she does know that she and her parents are part of the Witness Protection Program. Whenever her parents say they have to move and start over, she takes on a new identity. A new name, a new hair color, a new story.

Until their location leaks and her parents disappear. Forced to embark on a dangerous rescue mission, Katrina and her new friend Parker set out to save her parents--and find out the truth about her secret past and the people that want her family dead.

But every new discovery reveals that Katrina's entire life has been built around secrets covered up with lies and that her parents were actually the ones keeping the biggest secret of all. Katrina must now decide if learning the whole truth is worth the price of losing everything she has ever believed about herself and her family.

BOOK TRAILER

<https://youtu.be/g2L0weGOE0E>

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

What does it mean to conceal something? Have students create a Padlet, Flipgrid videos, or some other collaborative project discussing and dissecting what concealing something means.

What's in a name? Have students research what names mean and why they are important. Then, have students research their own names to learn what they mean and why they were given that name if they can.

<https://www.newyorker.com/tech/annals-of-technology/why-your-name-matters>



VOCABULARY WORDS

Chapter 1: predictability, feigned, amateur, cartel, demeanor

Chapter 2: disinfectant, cicadas, adirondack chair

Chapter 3: initiative, heaping

Chapter 4: picturesque, anguish, queasy, exasperation, vaguely

Chapter 5: revolutionize, intertwined

Chapter 6: initiated, abundantly, cryptic

Chapter 7: muffled

Chapter 8: padlock, silo, heifer, tranquil

Chapter 9: scattering, lingered, casualty

Chapter 10: anonymity, mustering, recoiled, discreetly

Chapter 11: trivial, silhouette, reverberated, intently, drastic, rambling, implement, merge

Chapter 12: forth, scoffed, nuanced, encryption

Chapter 13: reverse engineer, assurances

Chapter 14: vantage, turnstile

Chapter 15: fluttered, incredulously, unsavory, replicate, seawall, mangroves

Chapter 16: dismantle, dilemma, conglomerate

Chapter 17: deciphering, obscured, cajoled, subconscious, permutations

Chapter 18: solitaire, garbled

Chapter 19: extraterrestrial

Chapter 20: abdomen, rummaged

Chapter 21: sedative, squeamish, jeopardy

Chapter 22: mutations, incremental, enzyme, genome, autopilot

Chapter 23: impersonating, predicament, oversight

Chapter 24: divulge, corroborate, coincide, accusation

Chapter 25: improvise, immersed, rendezvous, compliance

Chapter 26: modified, impersonal, hydraulic, recoiled

Chapter 27: eager, claustrophobic, dinghy

Chapter 28: parameters, resonating, clarifying, scoffed

Chapter 29: deference, mannerisms, warped, vehemently

Chapter 30: entitlement, unbridled, inevitable, neutralized

Chapter 31: déjà vu, adamant

Chapter 32: naive, deciphering, patronizing

Chapter 33: pseudo

Chapter 34: ranging



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think Katrina's parents have never filled in any of the gaps in her memory?
- Why do you think they chose to now live in an RV in a small town? Why not rent or buy something? What are the benefits of living in an RV?
- How do you think it would feel to only remember the last few years of your life but nothing else?
- Katrina has always been told her dad was involved with the cartel but in chapter 4, there is a lot of discussion about him being a scientist. Could both of these things be true? If only one is true, which one do you think is right? Being involved with the cartel is definitely dangerous but why would being a scientist be dangerous?
- How would you feel if you found out that you have a twin you've never known about?
- Can Katrina's sister, Ella, be trusted? Why or why not?
- What kind of moral issues surround Katrina's dad creating these two girls as a science experiment?
- How do you think Katrina feels knowing that she was created in a lab instead of what she always thought was true?
- What would be your plan to keep the twins safe?
- If you could change the ending to the story, how would you change it?
- What would you want to see happen in a sequel to this book?

ACTIVITIES

- make a list of Katrina's rules she must follow to keep herself and her family safe
- research the Witness Protection Program and learn all about how it works
- give students the same safe house location in Atlanta but different starting locations, different amounts of money, and different levels of technology available they can use to plan how to get themselves to the safe house
- research cloning and see what you can learn about it. What was the first successful cloning project? What is the most recent cloning success that has happened?
- write a 6 word summary of the book
- do a virtual tour of Miami/Miramar
- build boats out of aluminum foil and see how many pennies you it can hold before it sinks

STEM/STEAM/MAKER IDEAS

- 3D design one of the boats from the book in Tinkercad
- plot out the course from the diner Katrina and Parker are at to the safehouse and code Ozobots or Dash robots to follow the path
- using Legos or building materials, build the RV, the diner, the safehouse, or something else from the book
- Using building materials or Tinkercad, design the bed on the boat that lifts up and has the hiding space in it where Katrina and Parker are supposed to hide
- Design different aliases complete with name, background story, and hair/clothing changes
- create a movie poster/ad and a pitch to convince a streaming service (Netflix, Disney+, Hulu, etc.) to turn this into a movie
- create a soundtrack of music for the book
- design your own live video show: what will you talk about? What will it be called? Who will be on it? Just audio or video too? What platform will it go on? Will it be a podcast? On YouTube or TikTok? How will you promote it?
- Make a spy mask that helps you change your identity (<https://www.naa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/spy-activity-mask.pdf>)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christina Diaz Gonzalez is the award-winning author of several books including *The Red Umbrella*, *A Thunderous Whisper*, *Moving Target*, *Return Fire*, and *Stormspeaker*. She lives in Florida with her husband, her sons, and a dog that can open doors. Learn more at christinagonzalez.com

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

