

Skip

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
MOLLY MENDOZA

SCIS: 5405713

ISBN: 9781913123062

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Secondary



SYNOPSIS

A colorful, unpredictable postapocalyptic world comes alive in *Skip* when two unlikely friends, Bloom and Gloopy, find themselves tossed from dimension to dimension. Gloopy is running towards adventure, and away from their home and friends who don't understand their creative talent. Bloom is desperately trying to return home to their lake, and avoid the terrible violence of the city. Instead, both Bloom and Gloopy find what they need in each other, and bravely return home to challenge their fears and create beauty in their own worlds.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Molly Mendoza is an American illustrator and comic artist who graduated from Pacific Northwest College of Art. They have gone on to develop a rich personal art practice, self-publishing numerous comics as well as working with clients such as *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Hazlitt*, and *Adobe* among others. They currently live in Portland, Oregon.

STUDY NOTES

- View the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
 - The title
 - The author
 - The illustrator
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the cover and title, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer when you've completed the book. Was your answer correct?
- What are some of the themes in this book? As a class or in small groups identify and list the themes. Individually write a statement of belief about each theme.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
- Bloom and Gloopy visit a lot of strange dimensions in the story. Which did you find most interesting? Why? How does the art change to reflect the nature of each dimension?
- In small groups, choose either Bloom or Gloopy and discuss how they experience the following feelings over the course of the story:

- Uncertainty
 - Loneliness
 - Being left out
 - Belonging
 - Resilience.
- Have a class discussion about trying to fit in and visiting unfamiliar places. How do Bloom and Gloopy's adventures change them by the end of the story? What effect does this have on each of their lives?
 - Bloom and Gloopy each learn different things from their travels together. What do you think the most important lessons were? Do you think that they learned these lessons from each other or from the places they visited? Or is it a mix of both? If you were in the story, what do you think is the lesson that you would most need to learn?
 - Visual storytelling is the art of using images to convey a narrative. Compare *SKIP* to another graphic novel. How does the visual storytelling differ in each? What techniques do the illustrators use to convey a particular mood?
 - How has the creator, Molly Mendoza, used panel arrangement, colour and space to create a particular feeling? Choose six pages where you think the panel arrangement is particularly interesting. What effect does the layout have on your reading of the story?
 - At the end of the book, Bloom goes looking for Bee and discovers that they have died fighting a tech hound. What do you think will happen to Bloom? Write a short story or draw a few pages of your own graphic novel, depicting Bloom's life a year later. Alternatively, write a story or draw a few pages about Gloopy's life a year later.
 - Write a book review of *SKIP* stating what you liked and disliked about it, who you think would enjoy it the most and whether you think the information provided is credible. Use persuasive language to make the reader understand your opinion.
 - *SKIP* features a very bold and distinctive art style. See if you can find another graphic novel in your library with an unusual visual style. How are they similar? How are they different? Do they use similar techniques to tell you their story? Why do you think that is?