

# Besties Find Their Groove

AUTHORS

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ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Primary



## SYNOPSIS

With their first formal school dance around the corner, Beth and Chanda are on a mission to make it the best night ever. Step one? Secure the perfect dresses so they can dominate the dance floor! But when neither of them can find an outfit that lives up to their high expectations—and when they encounter unexpected pressure to find dates—these besties will need to lean on their friendship more than ever if they hope to find their groove and bust a move!

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Kayla Miller is a *New York Times* bestselling author and illustrator living and working in New York. They have a BFA in Illustration from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. When not busy working on graphic novels, Kayla enjoys watching bad movies, trying to cook new recipes, playing games (both board and video) and reading other people's graphic novels.

Jeffrey Canino is a writer and educator working out of New York's Hudson Valley. He earned his MA in English literature from the State University of New York at New Paltz.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kristina Luu is a Vietnamese Canadian comic artist and illustrator from Vancouver, BC. Prior to comics, she worked in TV Animation as a character designer and colour stylist. She's the creator of *Intercosmic*, an all-ages space fantasy webcomic, and has illustrated for various LGBT+ comic anthologies. She loves creating colourful worlds full of diverse characters and little moments of magic and joy.

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- View the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
  - The title of the book
  - The author
  - The publisher
  - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- 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.

## AFTER READING

### Orientation

- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. Think about the following after reading the opening scene of the novel
  - Which character/s are we introduced to?
  - What mood is the author setting?

Write what you think could happen in the story based on how the writer has set the story up.

### Complications

- It is the author's job to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
- Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension?

### Characterisation

- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw a picture of a character from the book, based only on the descriptions in the book (try and ignore the way they are already illustrated) and then describe their personality in five words. Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person?
  - Did your drawing look different from the illustrator's drawing? Did the illustrator draw the characters how you wanted them to look?

### Setting and World-building

- Consider the world the author has created in this novel and answer the following questions:
  - Can you describe it?
  - How is it different to the world you live in?
  - Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?
  - How important were the illustrations in creating the world in this novel?

### Resolution

- How does the story conclude (resolution)?
- Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the first chapter. Were you surprised by where the story went?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?
- Imagine that a movie was being made of the novel. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have.
  - Also choose your ideal cast for the movie and create a movie poster.