

# BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION



## KICKOFF QUESTION (PAIR SHARE OR GROUP SHARE)

Read the “Author Summary” at the end of the book. Ms. Soontornvat typically writes fantasy but decided to write a memoir because she thought it was a “good story” that many people could relate to.

What makes a good story to you? (For example, action-packed plots, relatable characters, new perspectives, important morals or themes, etc.)

# BOOK CLUB

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



If you were introducing Christina to a friend, how would you describe her? She does a few not-so-nice things. What did you think about that? Have you ever said anything you wished you hadn't? (p.58, 68)



How does Christina feel about starting middle school? How is this the same/different feeling compared to her moving to a new town in TX when she was younger? How is it similar or different from anything you've experienced?



What did you think about the kids who didn't stand up to stop Tobin? How might they have acted differently? Have you ever experienced something like this? Does the scene with Tobin and his dad give you more empathy for Tobin?



Describe Christina's friendship with Megan. How does it change? Why did Megan want a different cheer partner? Do you think they stayed friends? (Read author's note!)



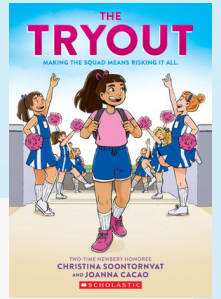
Why did Christina originally try out for cheerleading? How does she cope with disappointment? How did this experience prepare her for other things? What have you tried out for (and maybe 'failed at') that taught you a good lesson?



How important is the author's Asian-American identity to this story? What did you learn about Thai culture through her stories about her family?



# ACTIVITY IDEAS



## MAKE YOUR OWN GRAPHIC NOVEL

Use a comic strip template (like this [one](#)) to make your own story. Share a scene from a day in your life that you'd include in your future autobiography. Or, create a scene that would happen to the characters in *THE TRYOUT* after the book ends.

## NONPROFIT TIE IN: INSPIRATIONAL BOOKMARKS

Find a local nonprofit that supports local youth and create bookmarks with inspirational messages. We partnered with Girls' Empowerment Network in Austin. Bring supplies (pre-cut bookmark templates or cardstock, scissors, markers, ribbon, hole punch, etc.)

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION CARDS

Let students share what they thought about this book. Use one of these templates to create a [book recommendation card](#) with why you recommend this book. Print review cards and hang them in your class/home library. Then, log into [Bookopolis.com](http://Bookopolis.com) and add your rating/review there!