

Book Club Discussion Guide



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Cemetery Boys

By Aiden Thomas

About the author:

Aiden Thomas is a trans, Latinx, New York Times Bestselling Author with an MFA in Creative Writing from Mills College. Originally from Oakland, California, they now make their home in Portland, OR. Aiden is notorious for not being able to guess the endings of books and movies, and organizes their bookshelves by color.

Source: Author's website: (<https://www.aiden-thomas.com/>)

About this book:

A trans boy determined to prove his gender to his traditional Latinx family summons a ghost who refuses to leave.

Yadriel has summoned a ghost, and now he can't get rid of him.

When his traditional Latinx family has problems accepting his true gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo. With the help of his cousin and best friend Maritza, he performs the ritual himself, and then sets out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and set it free.

However, the ghost he summons is actually Julian Diaz, the school's resident bad boy, and Julian is not about to go quietly into death. He's determined to find out what happened and tie off some loose ends before he leaves. Left with no choice, Yadriel

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agrees to help Julian, so that they can both get what they want. But the longer Yadriel spends with Julian, the less he wants to let him leave.

Source: Author's website: (<https://www.aiden-thomas.com/>)

Discussion Questions:

1. Cemetery Boys is steeped in Latinx culture and traditions, especially those surrounding Día de Muertos. Which details and traditions were your favorites?
2. At one point, Yadriel thinks: “Navigating pronouns was a minefield when language was based on gender.” Why do you think the author chose to make the magic system in Cemetery Boys based on gender as well?
3. Maritza is Yadriel’s best friend and partner in crime. How different would the book be if Yadriel didn’t have her to lean on?
4. Cemetery Boys is in many ways a book about death, but it also has humor and love and characters living their truths. How important do you think that balance is? How do you think Yadriel’s upbringing and bruja gifts have impacted his views on death?
5. Family dynamics are very important in Cemetery Boys. How were Yadriel, Maritza, and Julian affected by them? What about Catriz?
6. Yadriel thinks that summoning a spirit and releasing it to the afterlife would allow him to prove himself as a brujo and a boy. But later, Julian asks, “Why do you have to prove that you’re a brujo—a guy—to them? . . . Why do you have to prove anything to anyone?” Why do you think it was so important for Yadriel to prove himself? And who do you think he was trying the hardest to convince?

Source: Latinx Kidlit Book Festival (<https://www.latinxkidlitbookfestival.com/>)