

Book Club Discussion Guide



The Best at It by Maulik Pancholy, Page 1 (May 2022)

The Best at It

By Maulik Pancholy

About the author:

Maulik Pancholy is an award-winning actor whose career has spanned hit television shows (30 Rock, Whitney), animated favorites (Phineas and Ferb, Sanjay and Craig), the Broadway stage, and films. He served on President Barack Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and he is the cofounder of the anti-bullying campaign Act to Change. Maulik lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his husband, Ryan, and his dog, T-Rex. *The Best at It* is his debut novel.

Source: Publisher's website: (<https://www.harpercollins.ca/>)

About this book:

Rahul Kapoor is heading into seventh grade in a small town in Indiana. The start of middle school is making him feel increasingly anxious, so his favorite person in the whole world, his grandfather, Bhai, gives him some well-meaning advice: Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it.

Those four little words sear themselves into Rahul's brain. While he's not quite sure what that special thing is, he is convinced that once he finds it, bullies like Brent Mason will stop torturing him at school. And he won't be worried about staring too long at his classmate Justin Emery. With his best friend, Chelsea, by his side, Rahul is ready to crush this challenge.... But what if he discovers he isn't the best at anything?

Book Club Discussion Guide



The Best at It by Maulik Pancholy, Page 2 (May 2022)

Funny, charming, and incredibly touching, this is a story about friendship, family, and the courage it takes to live your truth.

Source: Publisher's website: (<https://www.harpercollins.ca/>)

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you enjoy about this book?
2. What have you read that is similar to this book?
3. What are some of the major themes of this book?
4. What do you think the author was trying to accomplish with this novel?
5. Who was your favorite character? What did you appreciate about him/her?
6. Think about one of the minor characters in the story. Why did the author include him/her?
7. Is the setting of the story important to the book? In what ways?
8. Are you satisfied with the ending? Why or why not?
9. Have you ever experienced anything similar to the action of this novel?
10. Did you find this book a quick read? Why or why not?
11. What were your concerns about this book?

Book Club Discussion Guide



The Best at It by Maulik Pancholy, Page 3 (May 2022)

12. What scene do you remember best? Why do you think that is?
13. If this book was made into a movie, who would you cast in the title roles?
14. If the book you are discussing has chapter titles, take a second look. Why do you think the author selected those titles? Are they hints to what's going to come in the chapter? Are there any that didn't make sense?

Source: Multnomah County Library (<https://multcolib.org/talk-it-book-groups-kids>)