

JUKEBOX

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

A mysterious jukebox, old vinyl records, and cryptic notes on music history, are Shaheen's only clues to her father's abrupt disappearance. She looks to her cousin, Tannaz, who seems just as perplexed, before they both turn to the jukebox which starts...glowing?

Suddenly, the girls are pulled from their era and transported to another time! Keyed to the music on the record, the jukebox sends them through decade after decade of music history, from political marches, to landmark concerts. But can they find Shaheen's dad before the music stops? This time-bending magical mystery tour invites readers to take the ride of their lives for a coming-of-age adventure.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nidhi Chanani was born in Kolkata, India, and raised in California. She creates illustrations that capture love in everyday moments, which are often featured at Disney Parks. In 2012 she was honored by the Obama administration as a Champion of Change. She's the author of *Pashmina*, and *Shubh Raatri Dost/Good Night Friend*, and the illustrator of *I Will Be Fierce*. Nidhi draws and dreams in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband and kid. Visit her website at everydayloveart.com



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the relationship between Shahi and Naz. How are they similar? How are they different? When does their age difference matter? What are they each interested in? What music do they like? What books or book characters do they mention?
2. Talk about Shahi's relationship with her father. Why does she feel guilty when he disappears? What have they argued about? What does he promise at the end that indicates he's paying more attention to her and her interests?
3. At first Shahi thinks that her cousin doesn't care about saving Shahi's father. How does Naz show that she does care? What has she discussed with Shahi's father that she has kept a secret from her own parents, and why?
4. What are the mechanics of time travel using the jukebox? What determines where the time traveler goes? How can more than one person go at once? How do they get back? What negative physical effect does time travel have, especially on Naz and Earl?
5. How did Earl come to build the jukebox? How is it connected to his family history? Why is it so important to him?
6. What does Shahi mean by the "ripple effect?" Why is she worried that the person with the "Hungry Please Help" sign knows that the cousins are time travelers? What has Earl done that might affect history, and how does he repair it?
7. Identify the times and places to which the girls travel. What are the visual clues about where they are? Identify fashions and slang that indicate a certain era. What are some political causes or events that are shown?
8. Look at the pages for new sections that have album covers surrounded by items and notes, such as the Bessie Smith album (p. 39). What do you learn from the album cover? What do the other items tell you? What is in the notes, usually shown in small books?
9. What do you learn in the notes at the book's end? How does the author's note tie her own experiences in with the story? What do you learn about the creation of graphic novels from the pictures in the back, such as the ones about Process?
10. Discuss these statements from the book, starting with the opening line: "Music connected me to my dad like rhythm and melody." Later Shahi's father says, "Sharing music is how I show love." What does he mean? Near the end, Shahi says, "I embraced music as a current that connects me to my present and past." Talk about ways that music provides different kinds of connections in the story.

**Discussion questions prepared by Kathleen Odean.*