

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA ALUMNAE BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
OCTOBER 2020 – “CLAP WHEN YOU LAND” BY ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

1. What was your favorite moment during *Clap When You Land* and why?
2. Camino and Yahaira both have complicated feelings about suddenly having a sibling. Could you understand where their feelings were coming from? How do you think you would have handled this situation in their shoes?
3. Both Camino and Yahaira have close, trusting relationships with other female friends, family, and/or girlfriends. What are some of your favorite moments in the book where women show up, protect, and care for one another? How do Camino and Yahaira define sisterhood? How do these views change throughout the book? What is sisterhood to you?
4. What are some of the ways that Camino and Yahaira describe the way they feel after losing their father? What are the similarities and differences in how the sisters grieve for their father while trying to understand him? How does their grief change over time and throughout the book? Through your own personal experience with grief, could you see any similarities between your experience and theirs?
5. The plane crash in this book does not impact only Camino and Yahaira. How does the island react when Camino's papi passes? How is Yahaira's neighborhood affected by the crash? How are Dominican people everywhere affected?
6. What does Yahaira mean when she says "in the real world I am not treated as a lady or a queen, as a defender or opponent but as a girl so many want to strike off the board" (pg. 94)? How are Yahaira and Camino treated as disposable by the men in this novel? How are they controlled by men? How does the way you see yourself differ from who the world believes you to be? What do you do when those two things don't match up?
7. What makes Yahaira feel like her body is not her body? (pg. 176) How does this experience change Yahaira's feelings about winning her chess tournament? How do Tia's assumptions about El Cero's attention (pg. 155) affect Camino? What silences both sisters when they want to talk with the adults in their lives about what's happening to them?
8. Throughout the book, we come to learn that Zoila was aware of Camino's existence. What did you think of her decision to not provide financial assistance to Camino, her daughter's half-sibling? Did you understand her reasoning? How did you feel about Zoila's journey by the end of the book?
9. This book takes a close look at the Dominican culture. What was something new you learned, and was there anything that surprised you about the culture?
10. Elizabeth Acevedo writes this book in a poetic format. Did you enjoy reading the novel in this way? Do you think it provided extra depth to the story?

