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Also available as an e-book and in audio



Photo by Adrienne Melrose

Phoebe Sinclair believes in the power of voice. Through writing, organizing, and facilitating, she strives to create space and opportunities for people to listen deeply, speak from the heart, and feel heard.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Phoebe Sinclair explores many themes in this book, such as consent, dominant gender ideologies, homophobia, divorce, bullying, and racism. Such exploration invites reflection, conversation, and examination for young readers as well as educators. It is important to be in conversation with other educators, caregivers, and colleagues to prepare for supporting our students. Further preparation includes consideration of the following:

- What conversations might be difficult for your students?
- How will you ensure students listen to one another and respectfully consider multiple perspectives?
- How will you get the support and resources you need to support students who may find topics and themes in this book emotionally difficult?
- How will you get the support and resources you need to facilitate students' conversations around these themes?

FORMS OF EXPRESSION

On [YABooksCentral](https://shorturl.at/dCDO4) (<https://shorturl.at/dCDO4>), Phoebe Sinclair shared that she likes to use different forms of expression to give “interesting texture to the reading experience.” Ask students to observe and consider the various forms used in *Confessions of a Candy Snatcher*:

- Lists
- Narrative
- Notes
- Poetry
- Script-like dialogue
- Text messages
- Zines

Invite students to discuss how these elements impact them as readers.

CRAFT

Phoebe Sinclair chose not to use quotation marks in the book. Invite students to discuss the author's craft decision.

- In what ways does the omission of quotation marks give voice to the writing?
- How does it impact the pace, tone, and mood?

Have students identify an example of this craft move in *Confessions of a Candy Snatcher* that can be a mentor for their own writing.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

The question *What's the worst thing you ever did?* is explored by many characters throughout the book. Invite students to discuss this question with a reading partner or in book clubs.

- Discuss what the different characters reveal.
- *How might you respond to this question?
- Why do you think the author made this question a thread throughout the book?
- What ideas about being a bystander or an upstander are readers challenged to think about?

*It is important that educators have cultivated safe, brave spaces and that students are invited, not required, to respond to questions such as this one.

BECOMING A ZINESTER

A zine is a small-circulation self-published work of original or appropriated texts and images. In *Confessions of a Candy Snatcher*, C (a.k.a. Concepción) invites Jonas to create a zine. This becomes a liberating form of self-expression for each of these characters as well as a way for them to heal.

Invite students to create zines, thinking deeply about a topic that feels relevant to them and is also important in the lives of others. Students can work independently or collaboratively to consider topics, images that help to tell their story, and the number of pages needed to convey their ideas.

- If you were to create a zine in response to this book, what themes, topics, or questions might be your focus?
- If you were to create a zine about a theme, topic, question, or issue you care about, what might you choose?

Students can review the following pages in *Confessions of a Candy Snatcher* for inspiration: 62–63, 110–111, 130–131, 170–171, 194–195, 210–211, 224–225, 256–257, 276–277, 306–307.

These resources can further support students' work:

[What Is a Zine?](https://shorturl.at/ekvS1) (<https://shorturl.at/ekvS1>)

[How to Get Started on Making a Zine](https://teenlibrariantoolbox.com/2020/04/08/diy-zines/) (<https://teenlibrariantoolbox.com/2020/04/08/diy-zines/>)

[Zines by Phoebe Sinclair](https://phodoodle.tumblr.com/archive) (<https://phodoodle.tumblr.com/archive>)

[Zines by Theodore Taylor III](https://www.theodore3.com/gallery/zines/) (<https://www.theodore3.com/gallery/zines/>)



Watch the Candlewick Black Creators series to learn more about Phoebe Sinclair.
BlackCreatorsSeries.candlewick.com

Tip sheet developed by Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul, founder of Red Clay Educators