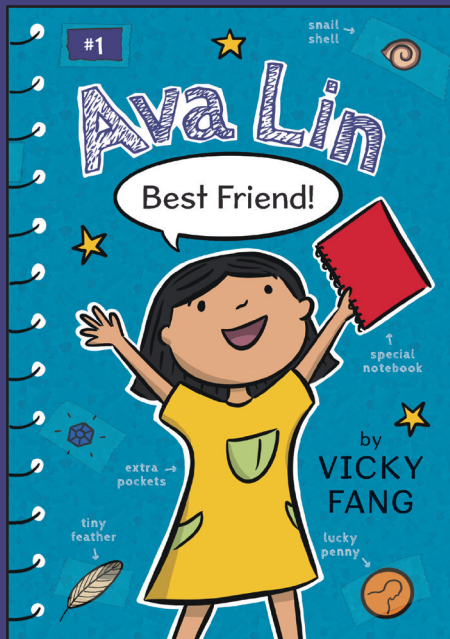


Brand-new first grader Ava Lin  
is determined to find a best  
friend—even if she’s a bit unclear  
on how to go about it.



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Use these discussion questions in your classroom  
to engage more deeply with this story.

## CANDLEWICK PRESS CHAPTER BOOK CHATTER

### Ava Lin, Best Friend!

- Ava Lin is on a mission to find a best friend. She says that if she had a best friend, she would do so many things with them, like hunt for treasure, find the Loch Ness Monster, build a robot, and more! What are some things you would do with a best friend?
- Ava has a long list of creatures she would like to have as pets. What sort of creature would you like as a pet?
- Ava notices Nikki's special notebook while they're at dinner and wants one of her own. Do you have an item that you treasure and take everywhere with you?
- In Chapter 5, Kushi offers some of her food to Ava during lunch, but Ava politely says no based on what she has seen the grown-ups do. Then Ava panics and thinks she should offer something because she wants to be best friends with Kushi, so she offers her the jewel she found in class. However, unlike what Ava did earlier, Kushi accepts the jewel. Ava is very upset about this because she really liked the jewel. Has there ever been a situation that upset you when it did not turn out the way you expected?
- When Ava gets home, she is still unhappy about giving her jewel to Kushi. Her parents try to ask questions, but she does not respond to them until later when she is crying in bed and her parents hear her. Why do you think it took so long for Ava to talk to her parents about what happened? Has there ever been a time when you were so upset that you did not want to talk about it with anyone? Why?



- Ava's dad comforts her and says that the situation with Kushi is probably a misunderstanding. Why did Ava misunderstand Kushi in the first place? What have you learned from Ava's dilemma?

  
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