

by Mikaela Lucido
Discussion questions by
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1. Put your creative hat on! Danica and Jack named their agency the “Unofficial Official Renley Crow Detective Club.” If you had a detective agency, what would your top three names be and why?
2. Danica is very good at spotting “tells”—signs that someone might not be telling the truth, such as Kennedy smiling although “it doesn’t match the clouds in his eyes.” What might be some other tells that someone isn’t being truthful?
3. Danica’s mother gives her a relikaryo—a Filipino amulet to ward off evil. In the picture by Filipino-Canadian illustrator Joanna Cacao on page 38, the relikaryo is designed as a medallion with two flowers coming out of a single stem. What is the symbolism behind this design? If you made a relikaryo of your own that could protect you, what would it look like?
4. As a detective, Danica makes case files titled “Evidence For Haunting” and “Evidence Against Haunting,” and includes client characteristics like “Age 11, new resident of Renley Crow,” which you can see on page 27. If you were Danica at the climax of the story when she delivers the letters, what would your case notes look like?
5. Through Danica, we meet a character who is called driven (page 90), goal-oriented (page 131), and someone who feels too much (page 192). The people around her say that these are negative characteristics at times, but positive at other times. Do you share any traits with Danica? What are your similarities and differences?
6. Imagine that you had to solve a case in your neighborhood, but you knew that obtaining a clue might hurt someone’s feelings. As a detective, what would you do?
7. Throughout the story, a crow often appears to show the characters the path that they need to be on. Did you know that in many communities around the world, crows play a big part in mythology? Research the significance of crows in an Indigenous community. What do crows symbolize?
8. This story takes place in Ontario, but Danica and Anna’s parents are not even in Canada. They live far away in the Philippines. Meanwhile, in many Canadian schools, some newcomer students grew up in their home country while they waited for their parents to emigrate and bring them to Canada. Imagine a student who lives in a different country from their parents and has to be raised by another family member. What could this be like? **DISCUSS**

