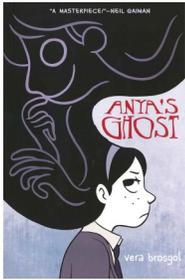


Books by the Stack



Anya's Ghost by Vera Brosgol

Anya could really use a friend. Of all the things Anya expected to find at the bottom of an old well, a new friend was not one of them. Especially not a new friend who's been dead for a century. Falling down a well is bad enough, but Anya's normal life might actually be worse. She's embarrassed by her family, self-conscious about her body, and she's pretty much given up on fitting in at school. A new friend—even a ghost—is just what she needs. Or so she thinks.

Why you'll like it: graphic novel, witty, insightful

About the Author: Vera Brosgol was born in Moscow, Russia in 1984 and moved to the United States when she was five. She received a diploma in Classical Animation from Sheridan College, and spent many years drawing storyboards for feature animation but now she is writing and drawing books full-time. Her first graphic novel, *Anya's Ghost*, was published in 2011 by First Second Books and won an Eisner Award.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why does Anya reject her Russian heritage and culture?
2. Have you ever tried to keep parts of your life secret? Why?
3. Why does Emily lie about her death? What do you think really happened? If Emily had been honest about her past, would you be willing to be her friend?
4. What made Emily powerful?
5. Why doesn't Anya stand up for Dima when he's getting bullied? How would you have acted in Anya's place?
6. Dima says that Anya is a regular American kid. What does it mean to be a regular American kid? What is the difference between Dima and Anya? What makes her a regular American kid?
7. Elizabeth and Sean have a complicated relationship. Why do you think Elizabeth stays with Sean? What other options does Elizabeth have?
8. Anya, like many girls, seems to be self-conscious about her weight. How do you feel about your weight? Should Anya eat the traditional Russian breakfast, or low fat pop tarts?
9. *Anya's Ghost* is a graphic novel. How do you think that impacted the story? Would this have worked well in another format?
10. Anya skips her classes a lot. Have you ever found this appealing? Why would you skip a class, and which class would you consider skipping?

(Questions provided by author)



