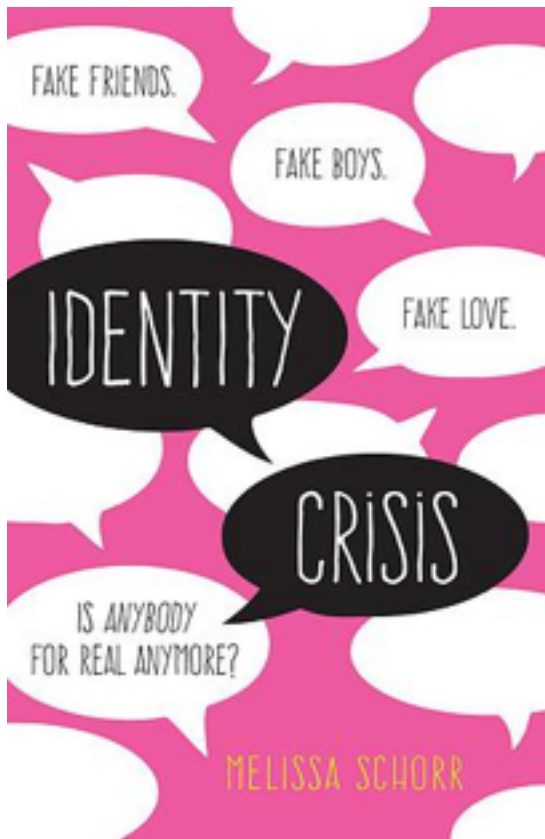


A READER AND EDUCATOR GUIDE

Grades 8-10



IDENTITY CRISIS

By MELISSA SCHORR

"A good discussion starter about social media and bullying." — Booklist

"For teens looking for love in all the wrong places, this social media fable is dramatized with love triangles, revenge, and rock-'n'-roll." — Kirkus Reviews

"A fast, fun read for contemporary teen girls interested in friendship, revenge, bullying, regret, light romance, and online safety, this drama-filled novel will encourage less-inclined readers to persevere to the end. Recommended for public and school libraries." — VOYA Magazine

When curvaceous Annalise Bradley's scandalous freshman year hookup sparks the anger of her female classmates, three of them decide to get her back by "catfishing" her, creating a fake online profile of the perfect boy to toy with her affections. Against her better nature, introverted Noelle Spiers goes along with her friends' plan, hoping to distract Annalise from dreamy Cooper Franklin, her lifelong crush who has fallen for Annalise instead. Told in alternating perspectives, **IDENTITY CRISIS** covers romance, betrayal, and timeless friendship in the age of modern technology.

Melissa Schorr is a contributing editor at the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine and author of the YA novel GOY CRAZY. Visit her website at www.melissaschorr.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss the novel with students using the questions below:

1) What does it mean to catfish someone? How did it get that name? Have you ever created a false online identity, or known someone who has? Why? What reasons would someone do that?

2) In Chapter 2, when contemplating setting up a fake profile, Noelle muses, “wasn’t there some news story, some girl, some state law . . . ? “ Have you ever heard of any cases in the news of bullying? Do you believe there should be laws addressing cyberbullying?

3) The story is told through two alternating points of view: Annalise’s and Noelle’s. How does the author use this technique to serve the plot, so that each character has a different perspective on the night of the Spring Fling? How does this affect what the readers knows? RL 6-12.6

4) Maeve’s sister Samantha enters Tori’s beauty pageant #InstaHotOrNot, despite being warned not to. In Chapter 19, Annalise calls her “attention-seeking” and questions why any girl would enter in the first place. What do you think was Samantha’s motivation? Have you ever posted something online you later regretted? RL 6-12. 6

5) When Annalise confronts Tori about her online pageant, she writes the words: “A pretty face does not mean a pretty heart.” and others follow with more aphorisms: “Beauty is only skin deep,” and “pretty is as pretty does.” What do these expressions mean? Do you think beautiful people are often given an unfair advantage, or the benefit of the doubt? RL 6-12.2

6) At the end, in Chapter 42, Noelle says: “I have been a faker, too. And I’m not alone. It seems everyone has something they are covering up.” What does she mean? Do you believe we all have something we are faking? Can faking ever be a positive thing? RL 6-12.2

7) At the end of the novel, Noelle muses that that our online connections can let us “scrape away the surface and connect somewhere true.” Do you agree with this? Have you ever made a connection on line you wouldn’t have made in real life? RL 6-12.2

8) Were there any warning signs that might have alerted Annalise that she was being catfished? Why was her character unlikely to recognize them? How would you protect yourself from being tricked this way? RL 6-12.3

Aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Grades 8-10