*Gemini* by Sonya Mukherjee

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Eng 112

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**Authors Bio:**

<https://sonyamukherjee.com/>

Sonya Mukherjee grew up in California’s Gold Country, at the end of a long dirt path.

Mukherjee usually loves sitting by trees writing her stories or thinking of new ideas.

**Book summary:**

*Gemini* as a novel tells a story of adjourning twins at birth. One of the sisters Hailey is a pink haired artist who wants new experiences with the world offering her perspective, while her sister Clara is a scientist who is in love with the stars and stay in the normal life. These two sisters absolutely love each other and are comfortable with each other it’s the stares and whispers they would like to go without. The two sisters contemplate whether or not they should pursue their dreams together or take the more risky path and take the surgery to separate from each other. The sisters also question each other what does it really mean for the other if they separate and have their own thoughts.

**Significant Quotes:**

“Hell no. They were like, we’re going to put you onstage, maybe teach you a little singing and dancing if you’re lucky and the make people pay to see this bizarre and amazing spectacle! And we’re going to keep all the money for ourselves! Mwaaah-ha-ha-ha-ha!” (5)

This quote shows what adjourning twins have to go through in life. Hailey is the one speaking here showing that the struggles of what people think of adjourning twins. Life for adjourning twins are really hard to go through people has opinions of how they are by the way they look. Even though it is evil to put adjourning twins upstage to have them give a show while the ones in charge of the twins keep all the money for themselves. It just shows that if things aren’t the same as everyone else then people tend to not know the strange or someone being different freaks people out. Normally people don’t actually understand things if they are different or out of the norm. There is this quote from Richelle E. Goodrich “Walk with me for a while, my friend- you in my shoes, I in yours- and then let us talk.” People don’t understand a problem until they are actually in that one person’s shoes. Hailey states here that anything out of place would be put on a pedestal to show the world its creation gone wrong.

“My sister hasn’t even learned the rules of our own universe. And she’s about to mess up our world.” (33)

This quote here Clara is saying things about her sister Hailey and how she might actually mess up things before she even gets to understand her own universe. Clara is thinking that her sister might actually mess up their universe all entirely because her sister does her best in art. With art Clara thinks that her sister Hailey is not equipped to understand what is going on with her own little universe. Clara understands how the universe will function and if things aren’t going to change for the both of them Hailey will mess up the universe for the both of them. Clara spends time on correcting and learning the little quirks on what the universe has to offer to her, while her sister submerges in the world of art and soon will ruin her own life and her sisters.

“It hurt my feelings a little- the idea that Clara would want to be away from me.” (61)

This quote here is from Hailey as soon as she saw the news cast about a pair of twins had done the surgery of separation. She thought of the dangers if Clara decides to leave her, Hailey gets a sense of comfort when she has Clara’s warmth nearby her. The thought of Clara leaving her would leave her in a very dark place. The place where Hailey doesn’t want to be would consist of total darkness without her sister Clara; she would rather be dead than separate from her sister. After learning that there was a pair of conjoining twins separating who died from the surgery from complications, it had Hailey thinking about whether she should go with the surgery or live together with her sister for as long as she needed.

**Why should teens read this book?**

I think that teens should read this book is because lots of people out here do in fact have brothers and sisters. The even rarer case is if these two do in fact are joined together at birth. This novel from Mukherjee shows us the point of life of twins who are stuck together at birth. The things that Clara and Hailey go through sharing space, going everywhere together, not being able to go do their own things without the other being there, not being able to kiss a boy easily because of the other twin being so close together. Even though the twins do not have any time away from each other the bond is there and so teens should be able to expose themselves to this sort of novel who are looking for a really strong bond or also the lost of bonds if the two twins do in fact split. Mukherjee goes to great lengths to tell us a story of what is going on throughout the twin’s lives and paints us a picture of family bonds between sisters. Though life is difficult they are able to prove life wrong with their bond. Throughout the novel the sisters do have different agendas in their road to finishing school the two of them even actually do think that separation would the best idea to go but at the same time the warmth of each other do in fact stay true. The love between these two twins are at the highest and with the point of Mukherjee trying to give us is there are bonds out there that are too strong to break it’s also a bonus if they are adjourning twins.

**How I would teach and introduce this book to the class.**

For this novel if I was to introduce this to the class. I would bring it up as a topic of the day wondering if my students have twins, if they do in fact have twins then I would bring out the subject of how these two twins are adjourning twins at birth much more different than the usual normal twins. Mukherjee puts this novel out there showing how close bonds are if the more closer they are on a daily basis. I would look at that aspect paint the whole picture towards my students and have them critically analyze whether or not bonds that are strong like this adjourning twins if it is able to break easily and why? Young teens in fact some of them don’t even like their twin because the bond there is not that strong compared to how Mukherjee makes for Hailey and Clara so in retrospect for my class I would show them my thoughts make it understandable on where I stand, tell them about it, and hopefully they are able to prove their side on how they look at adjourning twins. This novel is intended for the ages of 14 to 17, but at the same time all young adults readers are able to understand this novel no problem.

**Text complexity**

For this novel the level of reading is intended for people ages 14 to 17. During these years 14 to 17 are not usually open to the main ideas of things being different in their own lives. Things go on differently than how people are able to perceive things. Lexile has this novel at HL790L meaning that 75 percent of readers will have a fairly easy time reading the novel, but at the same time they will have a reading challenge. Some of the reading challenges that might permit are that since the twins are together at birth and cannot separate mysteries are going to be there. Twins that cannot separate from each other tend to give off bad vibes on how people will go about searching for the answers of adjourning twins. While reading this text I was also wondering how these bonds might break so easily.

Mukherjee uses lots of terms that show the love that is going on between twins and with that love comes also consequences if things should arise the breaking of these bonds with activities of each twin. These things go out smoothly a lot, but sometimes are not very clear on how things are. Mukherjee puts in things such as stories of other twins going with the surgery of separation came to with complications that ended the twins bond with death. The mystery behind separation is it is very difficult to determine if twins are able to live without the other. The two are bonded together, but trying to break them up might lead to more problems than solutions.