The Magic Fish Discussion Questions

1. Graphic novels combine art and text to tell a story. How does the art change the reading experience? What do the illustrations communicate that words can’t?

2. Tiên can’t find the words in Vietnamese to discuss his sexual identity, and later, his mom says “I don’t know how to talk about this stuff...but I love everything you are.” How else does language play an important role in the story? How do you communicate you care for the people in your life?

3. We see through the three versions of a similar fairy tale the way people can come together over shared stories. What similarities and differences do you notice? Auntie says, “They’re only stories. They’ll change when they need to.” (p. 147). When do our stories need to change?

4. Community Care is the act of looking past ourselves and prioritizing the ways we can support and care for each other. How does Community Care show up in The Magic Fish?