

ERIN ENTRADA KELLY

MAYBE  
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MARISOL  
RAINEY

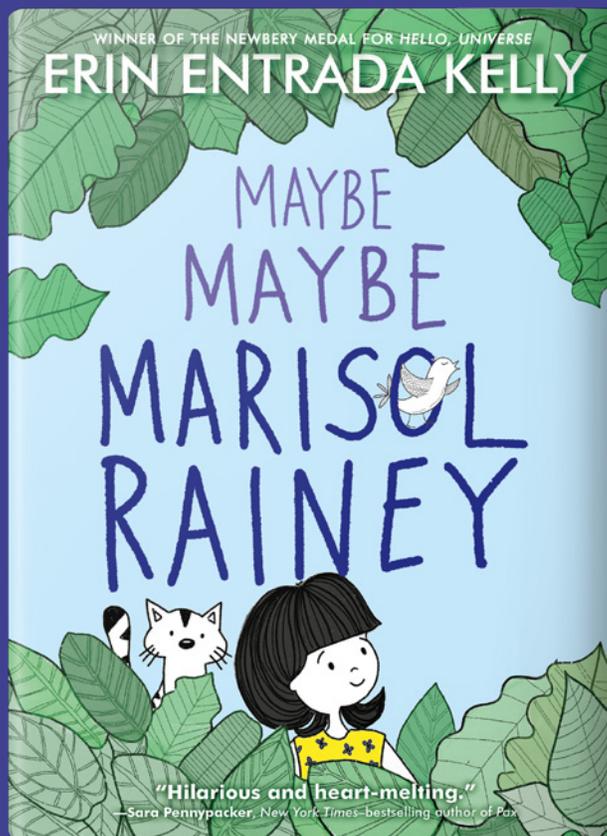


EDUCATORS' GUIDE

# ABOUT THE BOOK

Marisol Rainey's mother was born in the Philippines. Marisol's father works and lives part-time on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. And Marisol, who has a big imagination and likes to name inanimate objects, has a tree in her backyard she calls Peppina . . . but she's way too scared to climb it. This all makes Marisol the only girl in her small Louisiana town with a mother who was born elsewhere and a father who lives elsewhere (most of the time)—the only girl who's fearful of adventure and fun.

Will Marisol be able to salvage her summer and have fun with Jada, her best friend? Maybe. Will Marisol figure out how to get annoying Evie Smythe to leave her alone? Maybe. Will Marisol ever get to spend enough real time with her father? Maybe. Will Marisol find the courage to climb Peppina? Maybe.

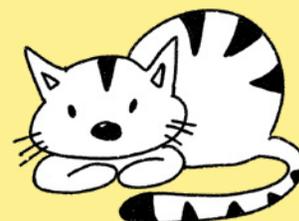


# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

New York Times–bestselling author Erin Entrada Kelly was awarded the Newbery Medal for *Hello, Universe* and a Newbery Honor for *We Dream of Space*. She grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and now lives in Delaware. She is a professor of children's literature in the graduate fiction and publishing programs at Rosemont College, where she earned her MFA. Her short fiction has been nominated for the Philippines Free Press Literary Award for Short Fiction and the Pushcart Prize. Erin Entrada Kelly's debut novel, *Blackbird Fly*, was a Kirkus Best Book, a School Library Journal Best Book, an ALSC

Notable Book, and an Asian/Pacific American Literature Honor Book. She is also the author of *The Land of Forgotten Girls*, winner of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature; *You Go First*, a Spring 2018 Indie Next Pick; *Lalani of the Distant Sea*, an Indie Next Pick; and *We Dream of Space*. The author's mother was the first in her family to immigrate to the United States from the Philippines, and she now lives in Cebu.

Photo by Laurence Kesterson



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# QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Who are the important people in Marisol's life? How do they each support and encourage her in different ways? Describe her friends and family members and her relationships with each.
2. Marisol shares many of her fears in *Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey*. What is one of Marisol's greatest fears? How is Marisol's greatest longing also one of her greatest fears? Describe some of Marisol's other fears. What are some things you're afraid of?
3. Marisol's brother, Oz, has an affectionate nickname for his dad. What does he call him? Why does he call him this? What is Mr. Rainey's nickname for Marisol? How does she feel about it? Consider Marisol's opinion that "all things—all important things, anyway—should have their own names" (p. 21). Discuss the significance of names in the book and in real life.
4. Marisol is very curious: "Marisol knows she's asking a lot of questions, but how is she supposed to get answers without asking questions?" (p. 48). What are some of the questions she asks? Does she get answers to all of them? What happens when the person you ask doesn't know (or won't tell you) the answer to your question? How can you find the answer another way?
5. If Marisol could be an animal, what would she be? Why does she choose this animal? What about Jada? What is her reasoning behind her choice? What do their choices say about their friendship? Do you and your best friend always pick the same things?
6. Marisol's teacher, Mrs. Ruby, mentions, "Family can mean different things to different people. And families can be very different from one another" (p. 73). To Marisol, what does family mean? How is her family different from some of the other families? What makes it special? Discuss what family means to you. What makes your family special?
7. Mr. Rainey is always telling jokes. What are some of the puns he delights Marisol with? How does Marisol react to them? How does this demonstrate the type of relationship Marisol has with her dad?
8. Jada and Marisol have code words that they use with one another as best friends. Discuss why sometimes code words are used between friends and why Jada and Marisol might use them. What are some of the code words they use?
9. Which fear does Marisol conquer at the end of the book? What is she now able to see that she has always wanted to see? Besides her fear, what else has she conquered?



# EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



**Life in the Middle.** Marisol wonders about the Middle Ages. When were the Middle Ages? Research what life was like then. What different classes (types) of people were there during this time? Who were the serfs and what did they do? Create a chart of the different classes of people.

**Travel Back in Time.** Research the silent movie era and Charlie Chaplin. What contributions did he make to cinema? What developments did he make that changed the movie industry? In addition, research Mary Pickford. What is she known for? What contributions did she make that changed cinema? Compare and contrast the two movie stars and their significance to the movie industry.

**Cool Cats.** Cats are known to be independent animals that often groom themselves. Research how all types of felines groom themselves. How do they keep themselves clean? Why do they groom themselves so frequently? What other characteristics make them independent

animals? Create a list with illustrations of the different species, or types, of felines. Discuss the differences and similarities of each type of feline.

**I See a Bird.** Make a bird feeder using this link from National Geographic Kids: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/make-a-bird-feeder/>. Using binoculars, real or homemade (Hint: tape together two empty toilet paper/paper towel rolls), try identifying the birds that you see outside by the bird feeder. What birds do you see? Make a chart of the different birds you see, along with their colors, sizes, and features.

**Dearie Me.** Mrs. Rainey affectionately calls Marisol “anak” (p. 51), which is a Filipino term of endearment meaning “child.” Either by asking a friend, a neighbor, or a family member, or by researching on the internet, learn five new terms of endearment in different languages. What are they? What do they mean? Who are the terms of endearment for?

Guide created by Esther H. Ra, EdD, MA, teacher educator, university career advisor, literacy specialist, and certified teacher.

