

Education Guide for Kacen Callender's *Felix Ever After*

Created by Education Researcher B.J. McDaniel

Comprehension Questions:

Before Reading:

- Have you ever taken a moment to think about the possibilities in who you are and who you might be?

While Reading:

- What are some techniques Callender uses to establish their vibrant setting in the text? Present examples with page number and list the place/space where the scene occurs.
- Using context clues from the book, what do you think Felix expected the older man to say about him and Ezra cuddling on the train?
- How does Felix describe the emotional tension he feels when his father deadnames him?
- On page 105, Felix begins to share his journey of questioning his identity with Ezra and expresses guilt about “putting [his] dad through so much” and Ezra interrupts that train of thinking before Felix continues. Why is it important that Ezra responded in that moment to Felix’s thoughts about his father?
- Felix notes that, “being at St. Cat’s for the past few years has taught [him] to breath in critique and breathe it back out again” (page 173). How do you interpret that advice?
- List reasons why you think Felix continues to text Declan even though he knows it might introduce conflict into his relationship with Ezra?

- There are multiple spaces in the text where Felix and his friends have to directly confront the transphobia of their peers. Three occurrences that stand out are: the conversation with James outside of the school (pp. 155-158), the confrontation with Marisol at Coney Island (pp. 203-208), and finally Felix and Leah's conversation with Austin toward the end of the novel (pp. 318-324). Please revisit these scenes and note who is talking. How is Felix positioned in these situations and what does that say about who gets to speak up and why?
- Throughout the book, text and social media messages are integrated into the bodies of paragraphs like regular dialogue, the only difference being the boldening of the messages. Why do you think these messages are presented this way?
- What is Tom's response to Wally's desire to, "Create my own world, my own bubble, so I don't have to be rejected by anyone" (page 274)? Are there parts of their conversation at the Center that resonate with you, and will you share why?
- How does Felix eventually come to connect with his father's words: "It's easier, sometimes, to choose to love someone you know won't return your feelings... It's easier to accept pain, sometimes, than love and acceptance. It's the real, loving relationships that can be the scariest." (page 287)
- Why is it significant that on page 330, Felix's father finally says his name?

After Reading:

- Pull out three themes that you see threaded throughout the book based on Felix's inner-dialogue. What do those themes mean to you?
- Do you believe in "Felix" ever-afters? Why or why not?

Follow-Up Activities:

In the text, Felix has a full draft folder of letters to his mother that he never sends. Take some time to **WRITE** the "Letter You'll Never Send" to someone you have questions, or confessions for, that you may or may not be able to talk to directly. Be reflective, be honest and take your time.

CREATE your own self-portraits using whatever medium you'd like. What do you think you'll look like, "on fire, underwater, [with] skin like the swirling universe, flying

through the sky, lying in the grass, sitting in the dark... smirking with a crown of flowers on [your] head” (page 288)? Take a selfie and then take some time to consider yourself and then create!

CREATE a character web outlining Felix’s internal and external conflicts with three characters and how those conflicts are into tied his anxiety around loving others and being loved in the beginning of the novel and how things shift toward the end of the novel. (Page 326 has great content for later in the text analysis!)

On page 81, Ezra and Leah both present compelling arguments around the pros and cons of labels. **CHART** those pros and cons based on what’s presented in the text and add in your own thoughts to the chart.

Further Reading:

If you liked *Felix Ever After*, you should try:

[*The Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta](#)

[*The Summer of Everything* by Julian Winters](#)

[*Stay Gold* by Tobly McSmith](#)

[*Darius the Great Is Not OK* by Adib Khorram](#)

[*Ana on the Edge* by A.J. Sass](#)

[*I Wish You All the Best* by Mason Deaver](#)