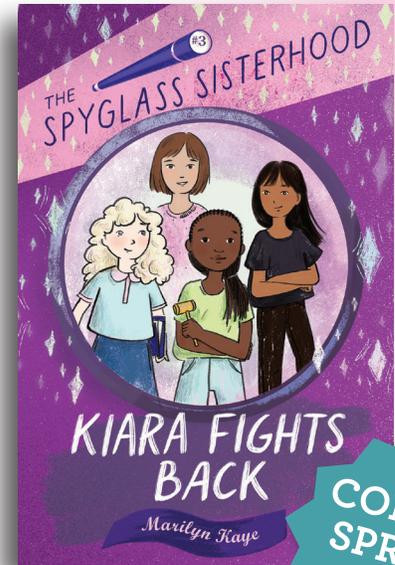
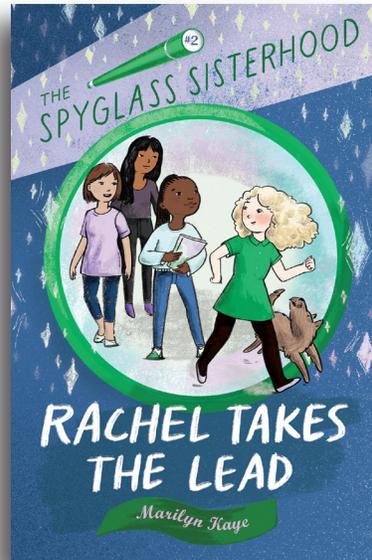
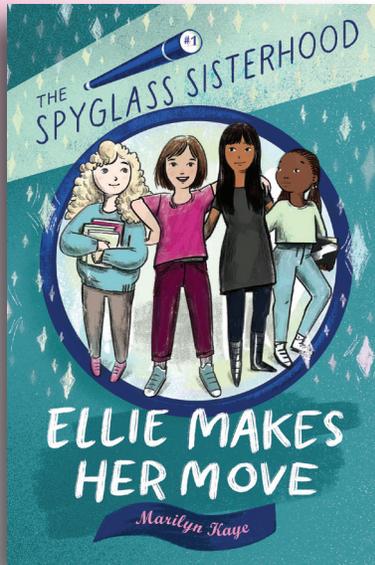


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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ABOUT THE SERIES

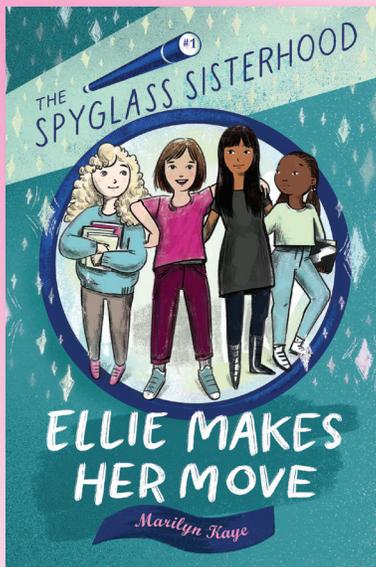
The *New York Times* best-selling author behind the Gifted series and the Replica books, Marilyn Kaye delivers stories filled with light magic and heart in the Spyglass Sisterhood series. Centered on four best friends—Ellie, Kiara, Rachel, and Alyssa—and a magic spyglass that reveals people's feelings, the Spyglass Sisterhood books mix classic friendship themes with fresh conversations on community and responsibility. Each book is told from a different girl's perspective, and each girl takes a turn at the spyglass, confronting fears and sticking up for her peers.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marilyn Kaye is the author of over 100 books for young readers, including the Gifted and Replica series. Born in New Britain, Connecticut, she grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. She earned a master's degree in library science at Emory University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Chicago. Kaye also taught children's literature at St. John's University for over twenty years. She lives in Paris, France.





Ellie Makes Her Move Book 1



ABOUT THE BOOK

A magical spyglass reveals secrets that will bring four girls together in this new series.

Twelve-year-old Ellie is ordinary. Absolutely, positively ordinary. Then her dad's latest community project makes their whole ritzy town, including all of Ellie's friends, turn against them. Tired of being ostracized, Ellie's family moves to the other side of the state to live in a rickety 100-year-old house complete with a turret—and Ellie swears off friendship forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Explain why the Marks family left Brookdale. Ellie seems very unhappy with the move. Her mom reminds her that everyone in the family has made sacrifices. Why is Ellie convinced that she has suffered the most? Discuss what her parents sacrificed. What did they gain when they made the move?
- Discuss why it is especially tough starting a new school in the middle of seventh grade. In what ways is Lakeside Middle School similar to Brookdale Middle? Describe the social cliché at Lakeside. How was Ellie part of the popular crowd at Brookdale Middle? Explain what went wrong.
- In the past, Ellie never paid attention to the loners at school. How does she now understand what being a loner feels like? Explain ways in which Ellie seeks out other loners at Brookdale. Debate whether she feels safe with them.
- Ellie admits that she has a problem trusting others. What is the root of this issue? At first, Ellie doesn't want to share the reason her family left Brookdale with Alyssa. Why does she think that she can trust Alyssa with this information? Discuss Alyssa's reaction. Debate whether this reaction surprises Ellie. At what point does Ellie learn that Alyssa also has trust issues?
- Describe Alyssa's feelings about her family. How is Alyssa searching for her own identity? Discuss how this explains the way she dresses and keeps to herself. Why does Ellie feel that Alyssa may not be as alienated from her family as she claims?
- Why does Ellie say that Alyssa isn't the kind of person she would have been friends with in Brookdale? How does their friendship reveal how open-minded Ellie has become?
- Ellie and Alyssa look through the telescope and see classmate Rachel Levin-Lopez when she was five years old. What is significant about this vision? Why does Ellie think they should wait a while before they tell Rachel about the telescope? What does Alyssa do to spoil Ellie's plan? Explain Rachel's reaction when she hears about the magical telescope.
- Ellie meets Mike Twersky at the library. Why is she surprised that he speaks to her? How is Mike very comfortable with himself? Ellie and Mike engage in conversation about family. What does Mike reveal about his family? Explain how this prompts Ellie to take a new look at her own family.
- Think about the title of the book. Explain how it has a double meaning. What is Ellie's next move?



Rachel Takes the Lead Book 2



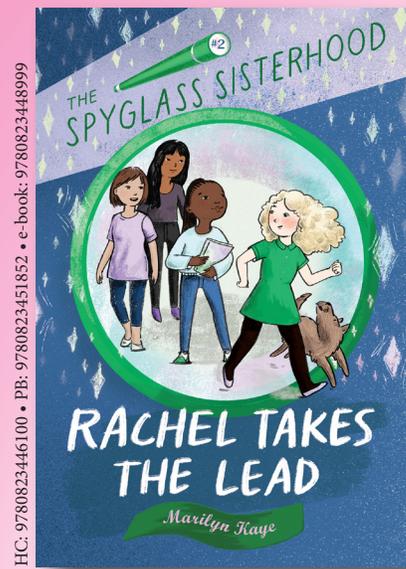
ABOUT THE BOOK

There's nothing four best friends with a magical spyglass can't handle . . . well, except maybe a lost dog, a school election, and overprotective parents.

Book two of the Spyglass Sisterhood finds Ellie, Rachel, Kiara, and Alyssa back for another adventure. When the spyglass reveals an image of Rachel walking a dog, she knows it's pure fantasy. Her overprotective moms would never let her walk a dog alone, much less own one! To the dismay of her Spyglass Sisters, Rachel would rather avoid the whole thing altogether. However, she can't avoid it for long when a lost dog follows her home.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Describe Rachel's family. How are her two moms overprotective? Explain how this embarrasses Rachel and causes her grief at school. What gives Rachel the courage to a talk with her moms about her need for independence?
- Ellie Marks finds a telescope in the turret of her house. How does she discover the magical powers of the telescope? At what point do Ellie and her friends begin thinking of the telescope as a spyglass? Discuss the things they spy. Cite evidence that in addition to showing the future, the telescope also reveals feelings.
- At first, it's Ellie and Alyssa that are friends. How do Rachel and Kiara become part of the group? The girls call themselves the Spyglass Sisterhood. What is a sisterhood? What do the girls have in common? How are they different? Explain what they are seeking.
- Rachel thinks that she knows her friends better than they know her. What does this reveal about Rachel? She says that she doesn't really know herself. At what point in the novel does Rachel gain confidence and gain a sense of self?
- Paige Nakamura is the most popular girl at East Lakeside Middle School. How is she also a "mean" girl? What is the difference between a "mean girl" and a bully? In what ways does Paige influence many of the seventh grade girls? Debate why they are so willing to follow her.
- Rachel is in Ms. Gonzalez's English class. A discussion about the meaning of "lie of omission" takes place after a classmate gives a report on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Cite evidence that Rachel struggles with lying by omission. There is also a literary reference to *Animal Farm*. Contrast Paige with Napoleon from Orwell's novel.
- Rachel and her friends are looking through the spyglass and see Rachel walking a dog. That day, Rachel walks home and spots the dog. How does she explain the dog to her parents? Discuss how Rachel's entire family embraces the dog. How does she discover that the dog belongs to Paige? What happens when she returns the dog?
- The seventh grade is electing a new representative to a student/faculty advisory committee. Rachel is shocked to learn that Kiara nominated her. Explain why Kiara thinks that Rachel is qualified for the job. Why does Rachel want to drop out of the race? At what point does she change her mind?
- Describe David. Why do the guys think he is "weird and strange"? What is Rachel's opinion of David? Explain what David admires about Rachel. David drops out of the race for seventh grade representative and throws his support to Rachel. Why did he enter the race in the first place? Contrast Rachel's campaign speech with Paige's. The Spyglass Sisterhood sees Paige crying through the telescope. How does this foreshadow the election results?



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