

Praise for *FREEZE FRAME*

IRA Children's and Young Adults' Book Award
Texas Library Association: TAYSHAS List

★ "They may well fight back tears and gulp with grief, but readers will not turn away."—**Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (starred review)**

"Readers are quickly drawn into the mystery of guilt or innocence. This book will be appreciated by many teens." —**School Library Journal**

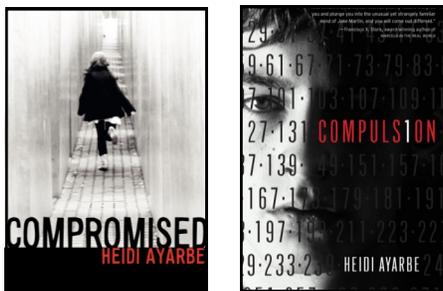
"A truly strong first novel, and one with definite appeal to older teens." —**ALA Booklist**

About the Author

HEIDI AYARBE grew up in Nevada and has lived all over the world. She now makes her home in Colombia with her husband and daughter. She is also the author of *Compromised* and *Compulsion*.

You can visit her online at www.heidiayarbe.com.

Be sure to read Heidi's other gripping novels



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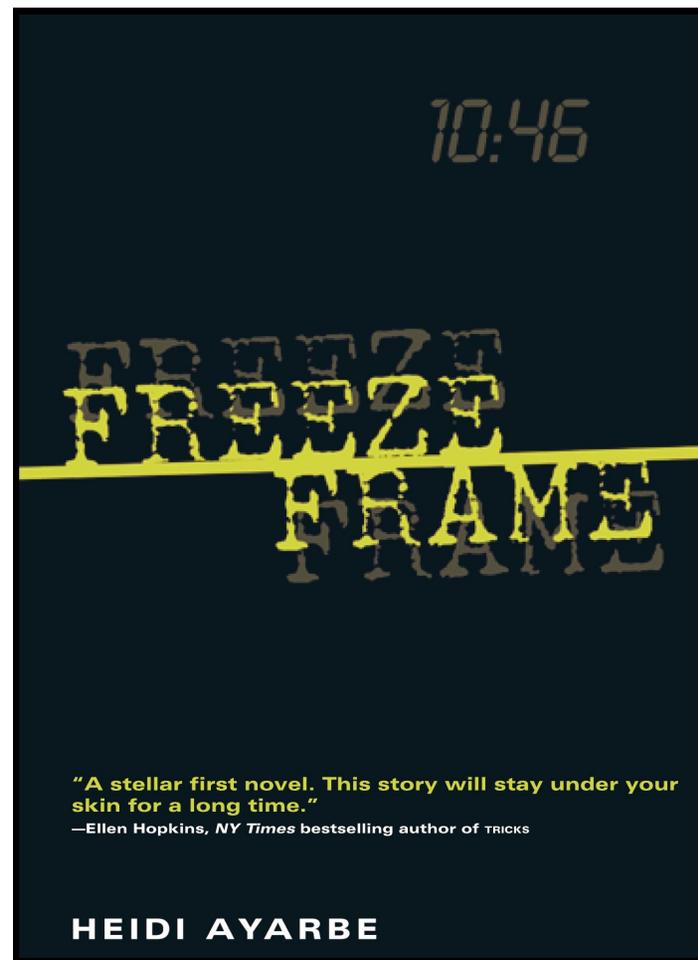
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* Discussion guide created by Christina Koza, Master Teacher of English, NYC Dept of Education.

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DISCUSSION GUIDE *FREEZE FRAME* by Heidi Ayarbe



"Freeze Frame is, quite simply, a stellar first novel. Heidi Ayarbe's powerful prose compels you to turn page after page until, along with protagonist Kyle, you reach the necessary resolution to mind-numbing conflict. This story will stay under your skin for a very long time."

Ellen Hopkins, *New York Times* bestselling author

ABOUT THE BOOK

Fifteen-year-old Kyle Carroll is an average, movie-obsessed teenager—the whole world is made up of films to be watched, shots to be framed, and scenes to be written. But Kyle’s life is changed forever on a winter morning, when he and his best friend Jason discover a gun hidden in his father’s shed. Jason ends up shot and killed, and Kyle can’t remember the events that led to the tragedy. No one can help him remember—not Mark, his probation officer, or Dr. Matthews, his offbeat therapist. As his classmates turn against him and Kyle retreats into himself, the only chance he has at remembering that moment is rewriting the scene over and over in the hopes that he can direct himself to the truth. But with the unlikely help of Mr. Cordoba, the school librarian, and a loner named Kohana, Kyle fights his way through his memory and imagination to come to terms with what has happened, and realizes how much can change in a split second.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) For much of the novel, Kyle is struggling with his own memory, and the different ways a person can “remember” something. Is memory always accurate? How important is it? What influences someone’s ability to remember?
- 2.) Kyle is attached to his orange shoes, and finds a great deal of comfort in them. He says, “God, I was glad to have those orange sneakers.” (p. 46) Why are the sneakers so important to him? What do they represent to Kyle?
- 3.) Kyle spends the novel replaying the same scene from his life over and over, trying to break it down and rewrite it. Is there a moment in your life that would like to be able to “Freeze Frame,” to go back to or rewrite? What is it? Why? How would your life be different?
- 4.) Why is Chase so important to Kyle? What do you think protecting Chase represents to him? How does Chase feel about Kyle? Why?
- 5.) Describe how Mr. and Mrs. Bishop react to Kyle after Jason’s death. Do you think it’s fair? If you were in their position, how would you feel? What would you do?
- 6.) Mr. Cordoba says, “What people read says a lot about them” (p. 277), and Kyle’s interest in books and movies plays a big role in his life. What books, movies, or songs do you love? How do they define you? What do you think they say about who you are as a person?
- 7.) Kohana and Kyle become friends over the course of the novel. Describe Kohana. What kind of person is he? How are he and Kyle similar? How are they different? How does he help Kyle come to terms with what happened?
- 8.) Describe Kyle and Jason’s friendship. What were their roles in the friendship? How did they influence each other? What did they get out of each others’ friendship?
- 9.) Why do you think Kyle doubts whether his shooting Jason was an accident? What do you think kept him from facing that “scene” for so long?
- 10.) It takes Kyle a long time to open up to Dr. Matthews. Why is this? Do you think Dr. Matthews is helpful to Kyle? Could she have done anything differently? If you were Kyle’s friend or family member, what would you have said to him?
- 11.) Before his death, Jason had been hanging out with new friends. How did Kyle feel about this? How does this affect Kyle’s memories of Jason? Why do you think long-term friendships change as we get older? Is this a bad or good thing?
- 12.) If a movie were being made of your life, what would be the important plot points? Who would direct it? Who would star in it? What genre would you want it to be (romantic comedy, drama, horror, science fiction, mystery)? Who would write the soundtrack?
- 13.) Kyle’s passion is movies and filmmaking, and they influence how he sees the world. What are you passionate about—what interests or dreams of yours shape your perspective on the world?
- 14.) A lot of the characters in this novel struggle with forgiveness—of others and of themselves. How important is forgiveness? Have you ever been in a position where you had to forgive someone? Did you? How did you make that decision?
- 15.) Mr. Cordoba plays an important role in Kyle’s healing. Describe his background. What kind of person is he? How does he connect with Kyle? Why do you think Mr. Cordoba is able to do what other people in Kyle’s life aren’t?
- 16.) At the end of the novel, Mrs. Bishop hugs Kyle and says I’ve been waiting for you.” (p. 376) What does she mean by this? How has Mrs. Bishop’s feelings changed over the course of the novel?
- 17.) What do you think the main themes or messages are in *Freeze Frame*? What can we learn from Kyle’s experiences and struggles?