



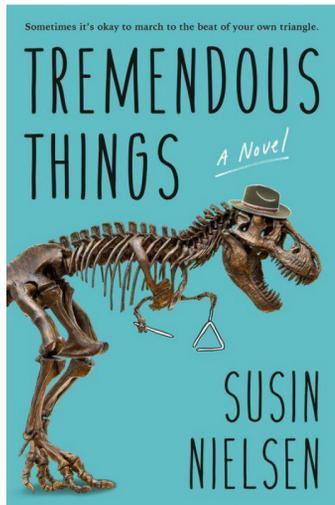
**Meet the author Kathy Kacer  
on Tuesday,  
April 26,  
5:30 Pacific;  
6:30 Mtn Time!**



## **Broken Strings Discussion Questions**

- 1) The music director selects Fiddler on the Roof for the school's production just a year after the 9/11 attack. She believes everyone will connect with the emotional score and powerful message. Do you think music can elicit emotional responses from listeners? p. 42-43
- 2) Zayde refers to his violin as more than an instrument, but with its broken strings it is unable to speak. What is an object in your life that can help tell your story? p. 98
- 3) During a play rehearsal, Mr. Berman asks Mohamed, "Do you know what I think about a Muslim playing a Jew? I feel happy." He then asks the cast and crew if they remember where they were on 9/11. How does he connect the events of 9/11 to the characters in Fiddler on the Roof? ch. 27
- 4) Zayde meets Amir at his convenience store, and the two strike up a friendship. In spite of their age difference, what do Amir and Zayde have in common? Why do they understand each other very well?
- 5) How did Zayde and Shirli change as characters from the beginning of the story to the end?
- 6) How did Golde make Shirli feel more connected with the past, heritage, family and who she is?
- 7) Why is it important to study events in history such as the Holocaust or 9/11?

# Liked Broken Strings? Check out these titles!

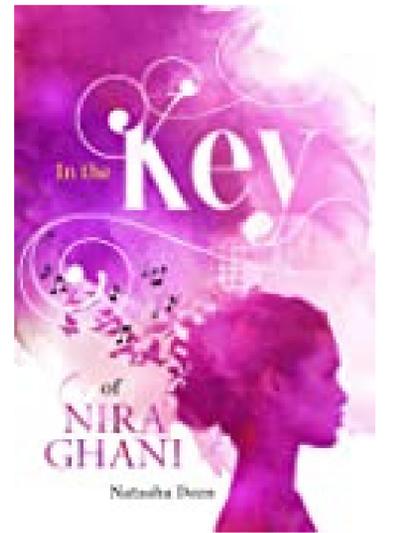


## Tremendous Things by Susin Nielsen

At the start of ninth grade, Wilbur Nuñez-Knopf is hoping for a fresh start. But he just can't live down a deeply humiliating moment from two years ago that's followed him to high school. His good friend Alex has stuck by him, but Alex has started dating Fabrizio and he doesn't have much time to hang out. Luckily, Wil can still confide in his elderly neighbor, Sal. But he longs to have a special someone of his own. When the school band does an exchange with students from Paris, a girl named Charlie captures Wilbur's heart. But his feelings aren't reciprocated. So Alex, Fabrizio, and Sal join forces to build Wil's confidence in the hope that he can impress Charlie when they go to Paris. Maybe, just maybe, Wilbur will find a new defining moment in the City of Love.

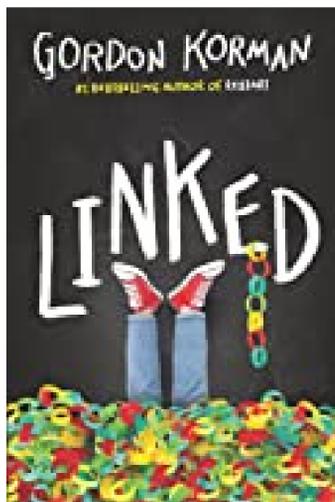
## In the Key of Nira Ghani by Natasha Deen

Nira Ghani has always dreamed of becoming a musician. Her Guyanese parents, however, have big plans for her to become a scientist or doctor. Nira's grandmother and her best friend, Emily, are the only people who seem to truly understand her desire to establish an identity outside of the one imposed on Nira by her parents. When auditions for jazz band are announced, Nira realizes it's now or never to convince her parents that she deserves a chance to pursue her passion.

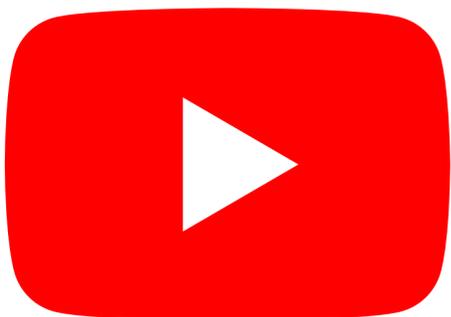


## Linked by Gordon Korman

Link, Michael, and Dana live in a quiet town. But it's woken up very quickly when someone sneaks into school and vandalizes it with a swastika. Nobody can believe it. How could such a symbol of hate end up in the middle of their school? Who would do such a thing? Because Michael was the first person to see it, he's the first suspect. Because Link is one of the most popular guys in school, everyone's looking to him to figure it out. And because Dana's the only Jewish girl in the whole town, everyone's treating her more like an outsider than ever. The mystery deepens as more swastikas begin to appear. Some students decide to fight back and start a project to bring people together instead of dividing them further. The closer Link, Michael, and Dana get to the truth, the more there is to face-not just the crimes of the present, but the crimes of the past.



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Dan Germeinhart, Jennifer A. Nielsen, David A. Robertson and more!