



# The Dream Weaver

## Discussion Guide

Told with humor and heart, *The Dream Weaver* is a middle grade novel (for ages 8-12+) about family, friendship, and finding where you belong. Twelve-year-old Zoey helps her grandpa save his bowling alley on the beach, while also learning to stand up for her own dreams.

**"A heartfelt debut novel rooted in the importance of family ties..."**

**—Kirkus**



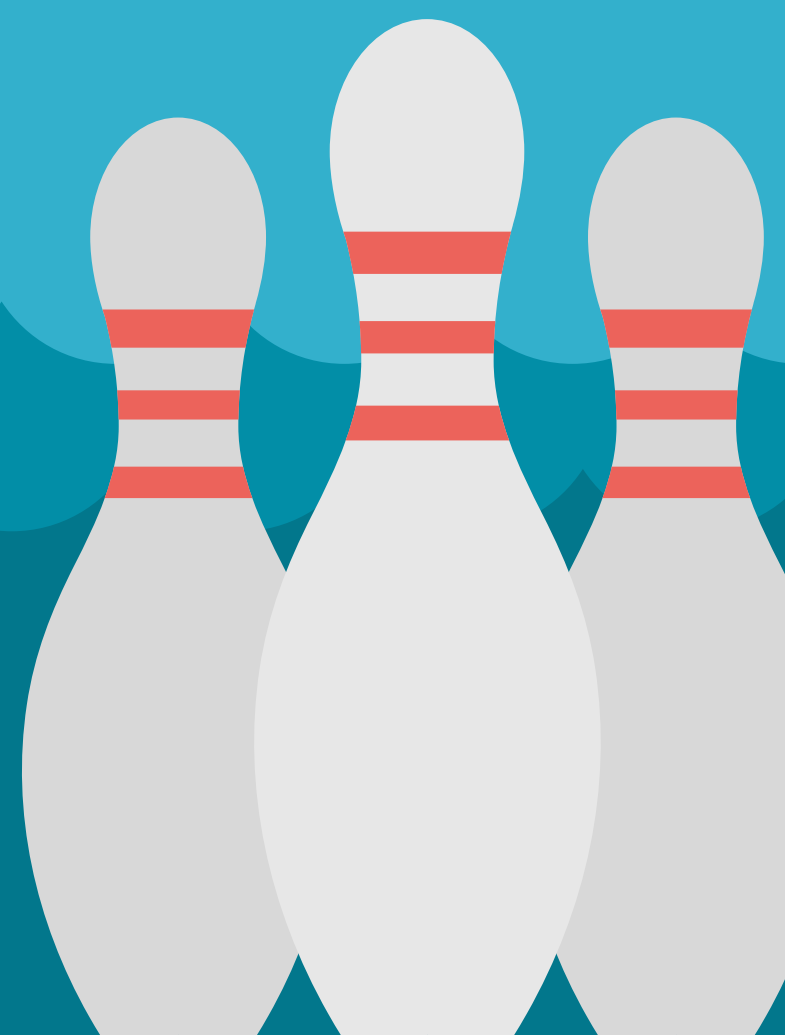
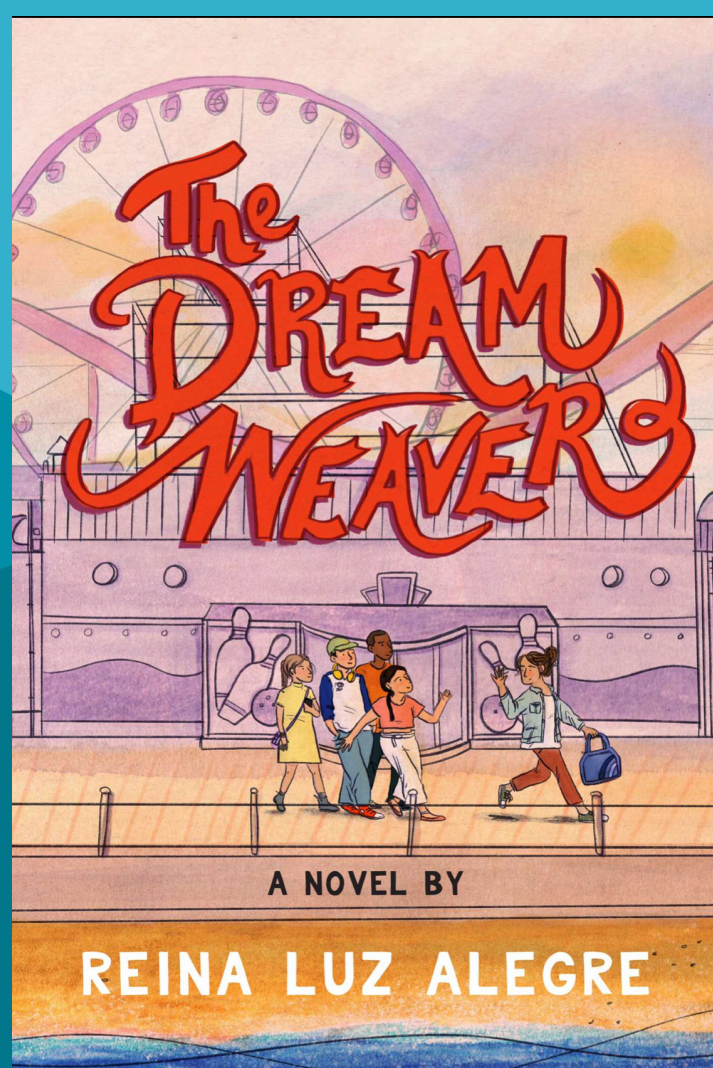
**"[Y]oung readers will happily follow along as Zoey pursues her dreams."**

**—Booklist**



**"[A] warm, funny, empowering book... Recommended for all collections."**

**—School Library Journal**





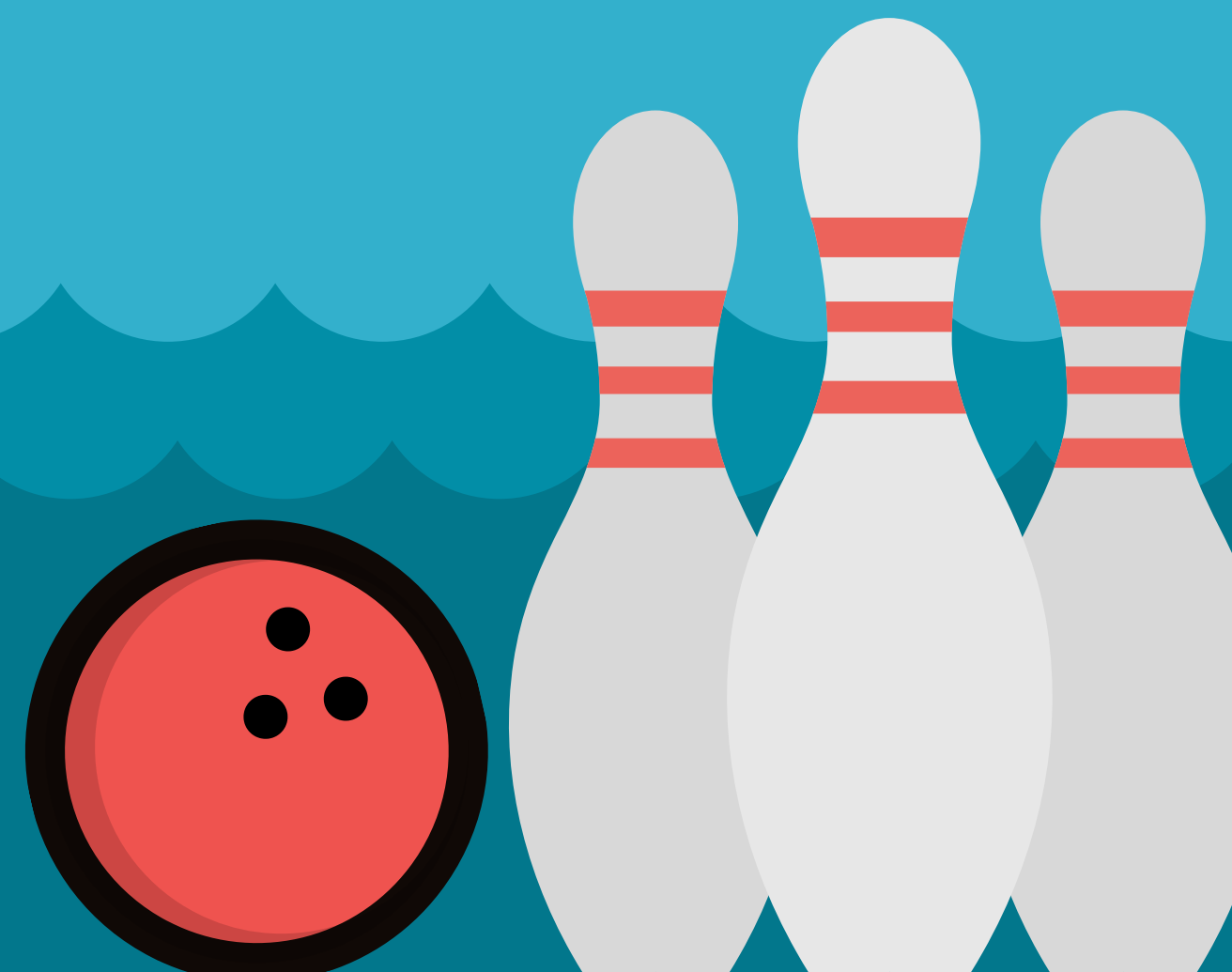
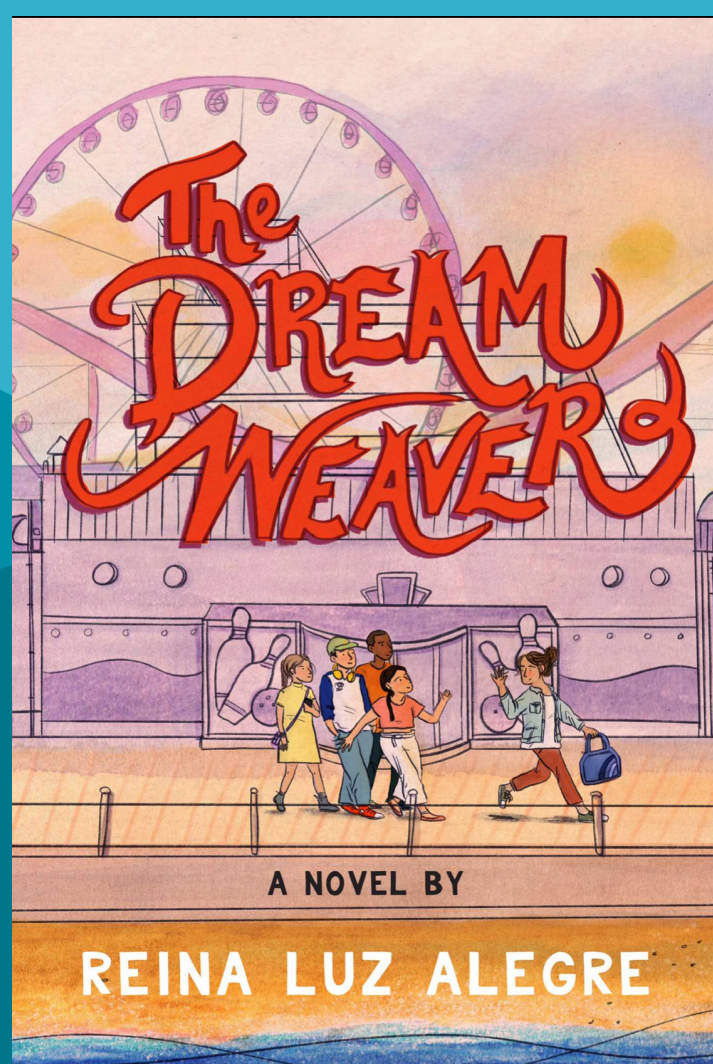


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The Dream Weaver covers various topics and themes, including (in no particular order):

1. Figuring out dreams and goals
2. Finding where you belong
3. Loving but complicated family dynamics
4. True friendship
5. Learning from mistakes
6. Coping with loss
7. Older sibling leaving for college
8. Adolescence — changing bodies and body image
9. Determination and resourcefulness
10. Small business ownership
11. Cuban-American heritage
12. Teamwork
13. Community
14. Bowling
15. Summer



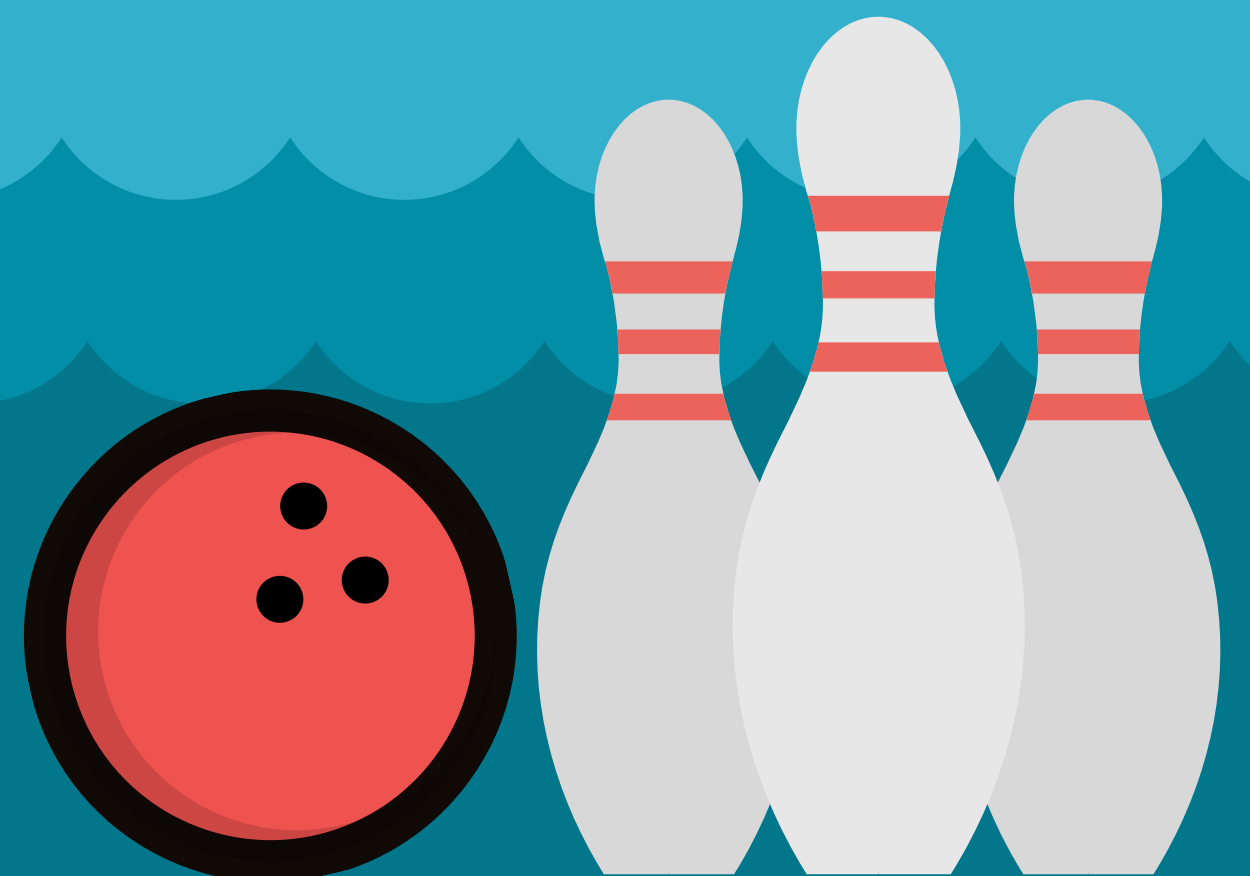
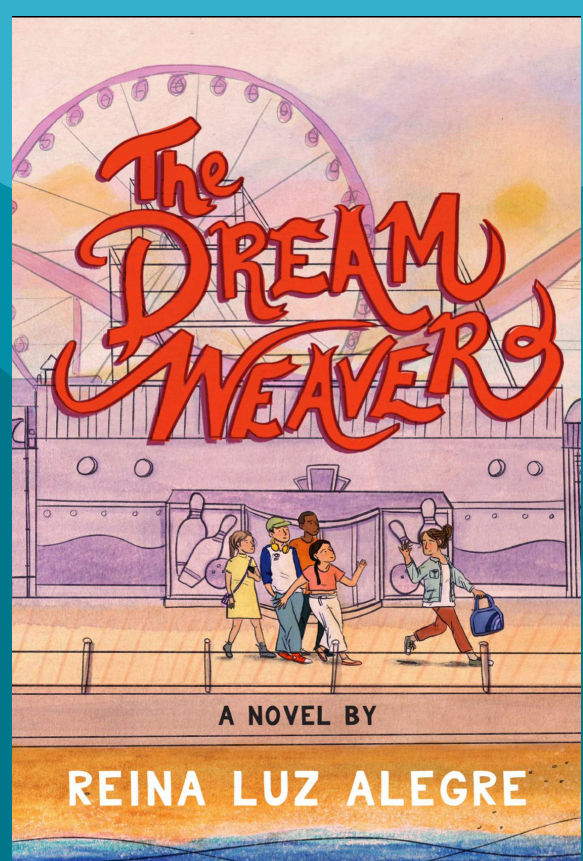




# The Dream Weaver Discussion Guide

## Questions Before Reading

1. If you just look at the cover, what do you think this story will be about?
2. What are your dreams or goals? In the short-term? Long-term?
3. Zoey has moved to many new cities and had to say many goodbyes. Have you ever made a big change? What things help make big changes easier?
4. In *The Dream Weaver*, Zoey learns quite a few things, including how to bowl. What's the last new fun thing you learned to do? Discuss.
5. When Zoey gets her first period early in the story, she asks Isa for advice even though they've just met. Do you have someone you trust and can talk to about important firsts?
6. Where do you feel happiest or most feel you belong?

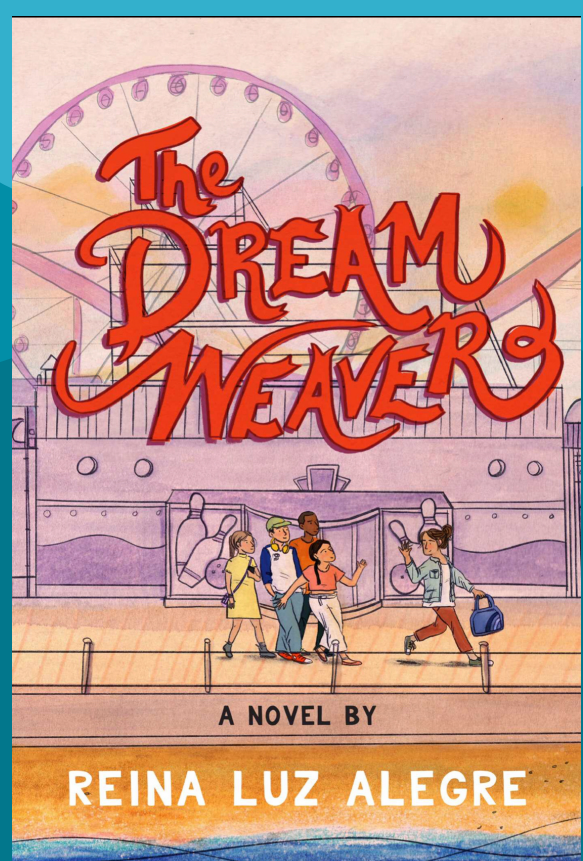




# The Dream Weaver Discussion Guide

## Questions While Reading

1. What does Zoey consider her role in her family? How does Zoey change throughout the book?
2. Compare and contrast Zoey's first impressions of Isa versus Lacey. How do those impressions evolve?
3. Describe three conflicts in the story.
4. Discuss how Poppy and Dad each cope with loss in their own way.
5. Zoey loves to eat her grandpa's Cuban cuisine. Describe your favorite family recipes. Discuss how food can show love.
6. Zoey learns to bowl and practices everyday for the championship. What sports do you play or are you interested in? Discuss.



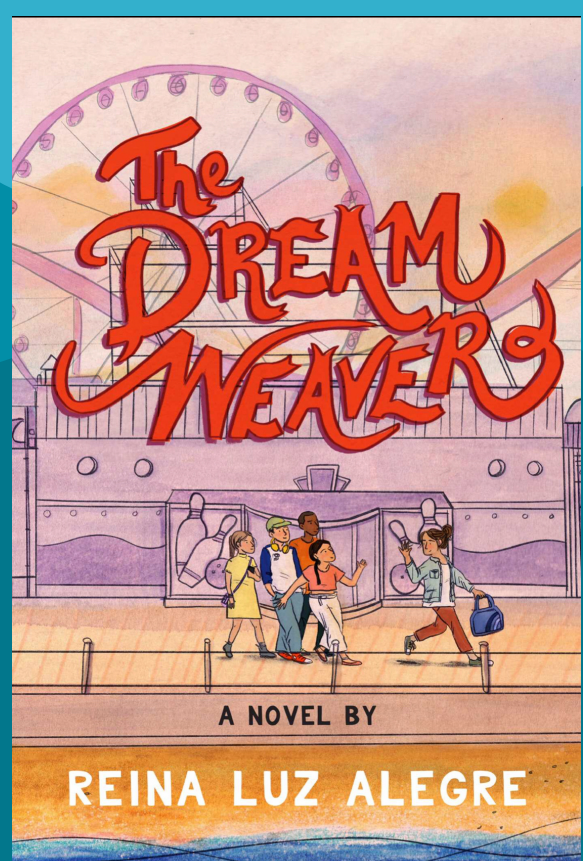




# The Dream Weaver Discussion Guide

## Questions After Reading

1. Discuss the ending of the book. How did the central conflict resolve? Was it the ending you expected? Why or why not?
2. Did you agree that dreams can change over time? What is the difference between giving up too easily and letting goals evolve? Discuss.
3. Find three examples of imagery that immerse you in the setting.
4. What did you think about the scene where Zoey and her friends discuss their insecurities while shopping for clothes?
5. What did you think of Isa's tips for boosting confidence on p.235? How do you build up your own confidence before tackling a challenge?
6. What do you think happens with Zoey and her friends when school starts? With Poppy? Dad? Choose a character and write your own short story about them that's set after The Dream Weaver ends.



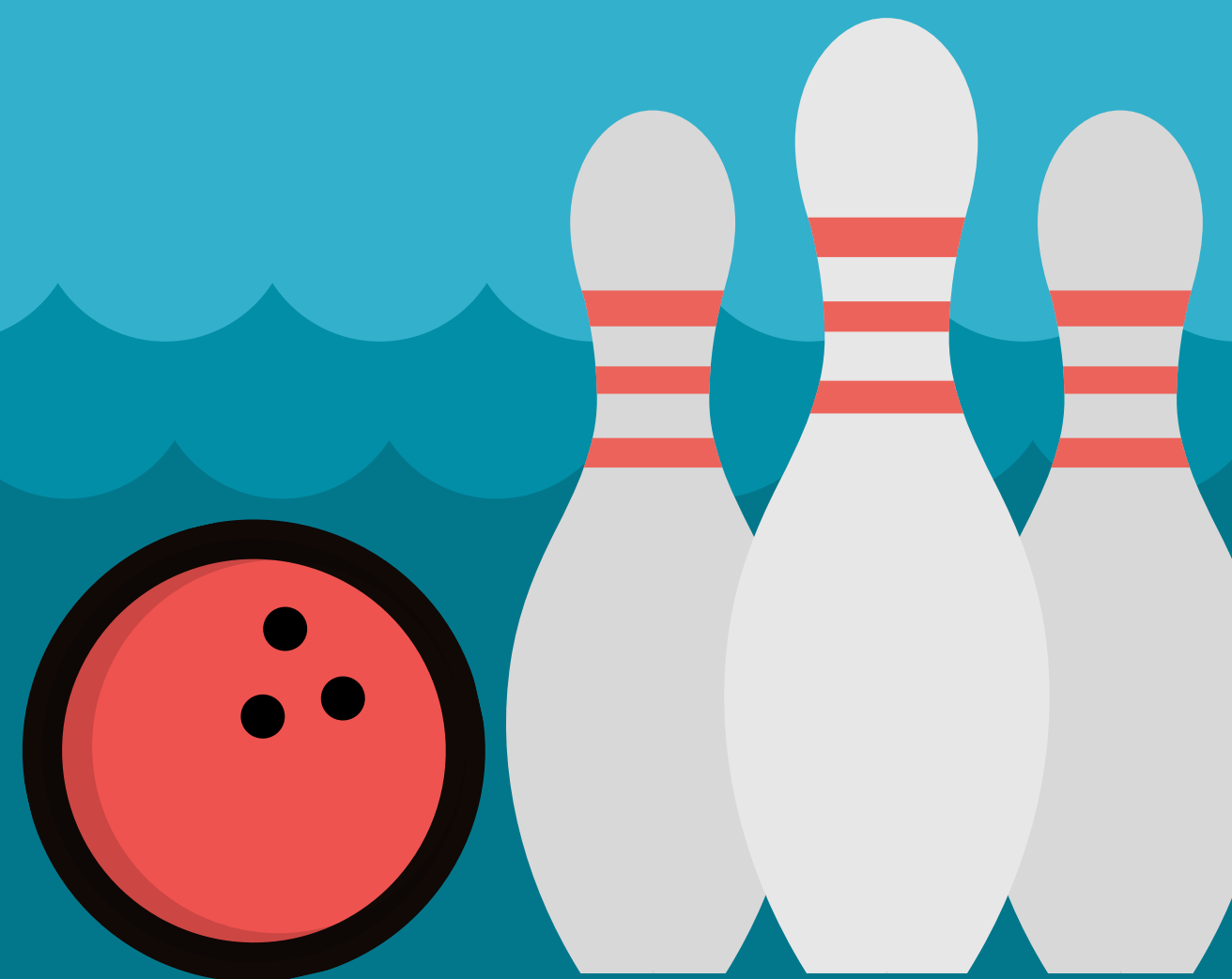
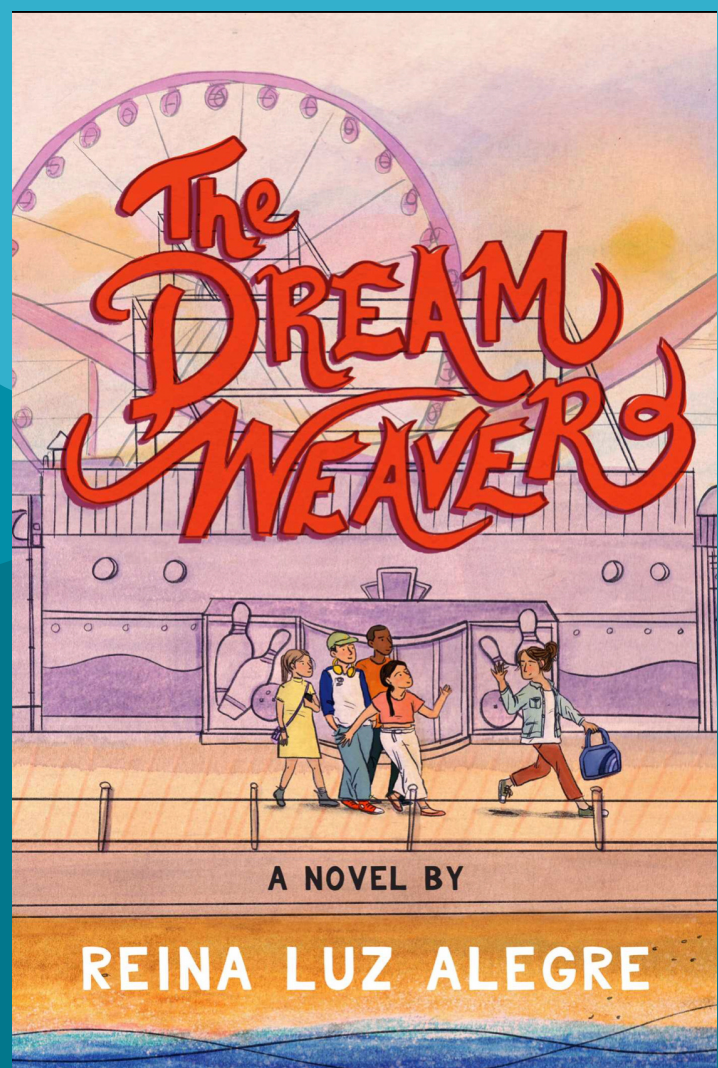




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## Craft Ideas

1. Design your own bowling team shirt like Zoey and her friends using an old t-shirt and fabric paint.
2. Create your own mini-bowling set by decorating empty water bottles to use as pins (and use any ball on hand for the bowling ball).
3. Draw a picture of any of the following: Jose fixing the Skee-Ball machine, Poppy's bowling alley on the beach, Zoey and her friends in their bowling team shirts, your favorite summer memory, your favorite sport, your biggest dream, your ideal ice cream sundae.





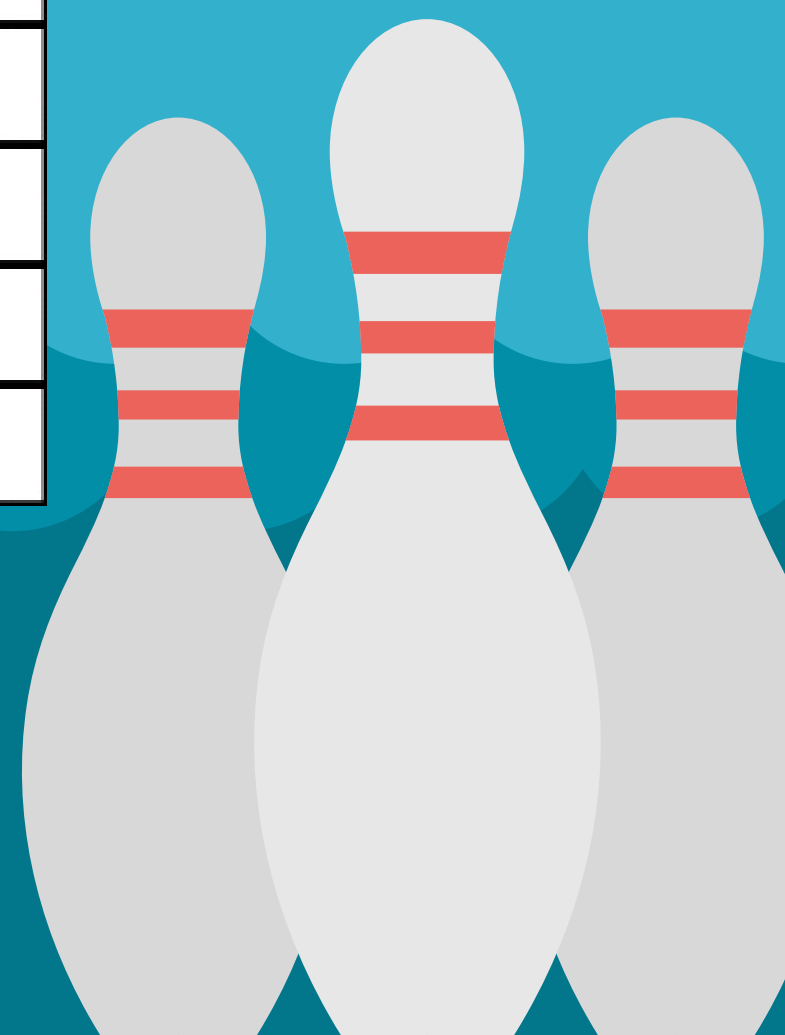
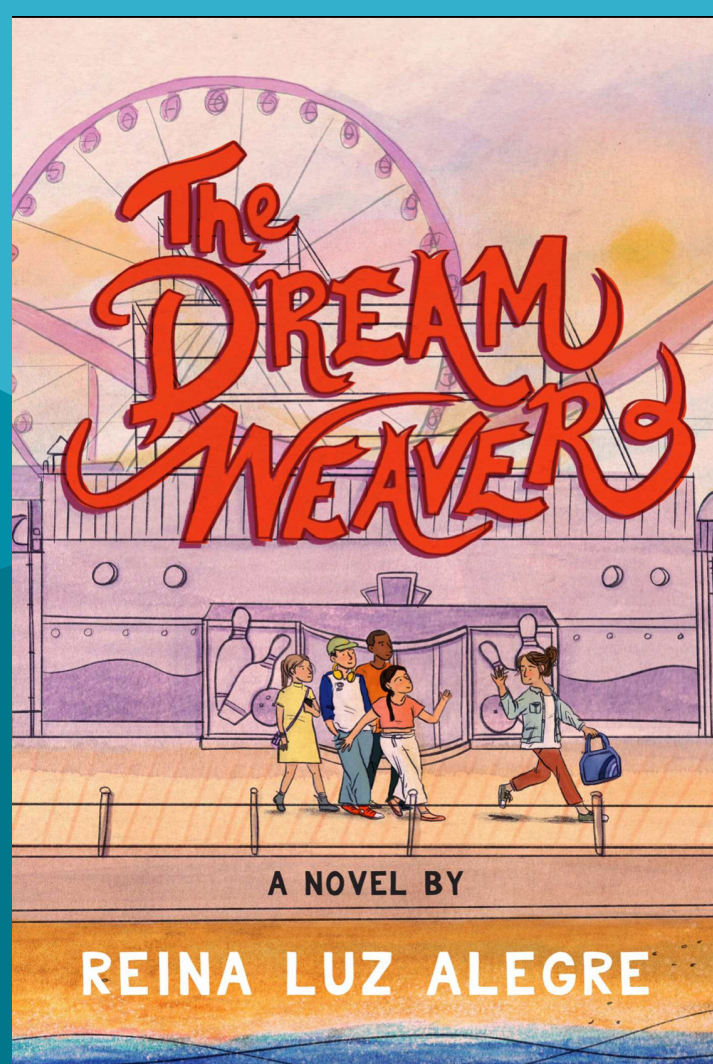


# The Dream Weaver Puzzles

WORD  
SEARCH

B	R	T	V	J	F	Q
X	E	N	F	R	D	A
L	J	A	W	Q	K	I
B	O	L	C	W	E	R
F	R	L	I	H	A	N
D	S	E	E	R	M	B
R	P	Y	M	B	B	O
E	D	R	E	A	M	W
M	E	R	E	F	A	L
N	A	D	A	R	R	I
G	R	B	A	I	G	N
A	C	A	D	E	Z	G
B	A	K	I	N	G	Z
O	D	E	R	D	E	O
W	E	I	O	S	U	E
L	O	V	W	A	A	Z
I	S	T	R	I	K	E
F	P	R	I	N	P	M
H	A	E	L	M	O	I
E	R	B	Z	B	A	K
A	T	E	N	O	R	L
R	S	A	K	M	E	R
T	S	C	A	A	E	Y
S	P	A	R	E	Z	M
C	D	R	E	A	O	L

Find:  
Alley  
Arcade  
Baking  
Beach  
Bowling  
Dream  
Friends  
Spare  
Strike  
Zoey

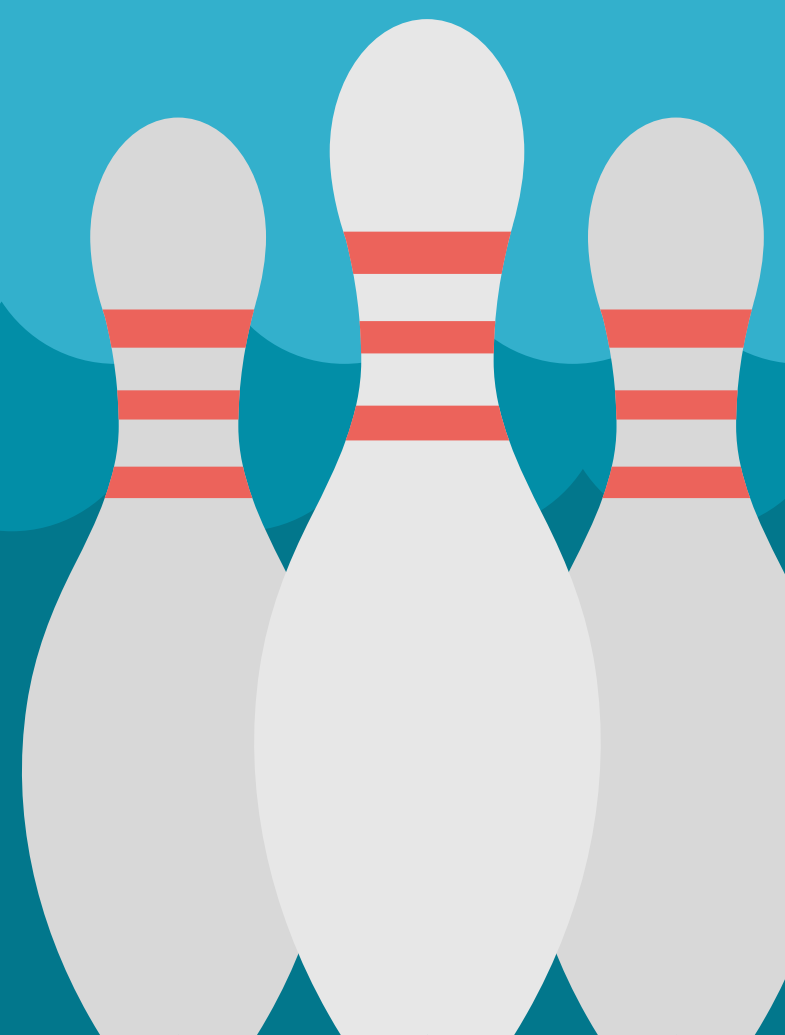
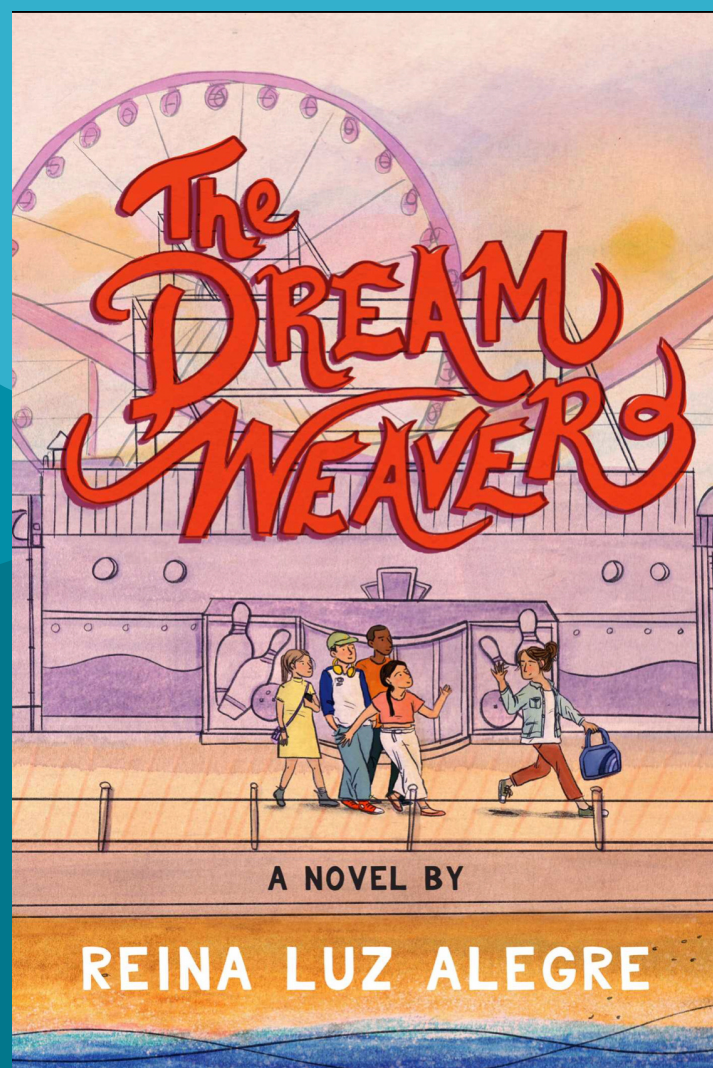
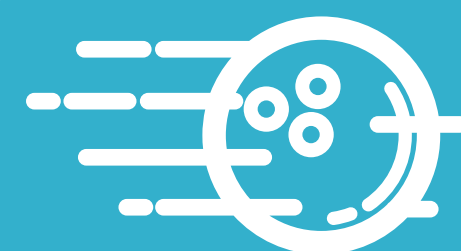






# The Dream Weaver Puzzles

Help Zoey make it through the maze to Poppy's bowling alley:







# The Dream Weaver

Make a Plan to Weave Your Dreams into Reality

The Goal?    How to    Achieve?    Time Frame?

1.

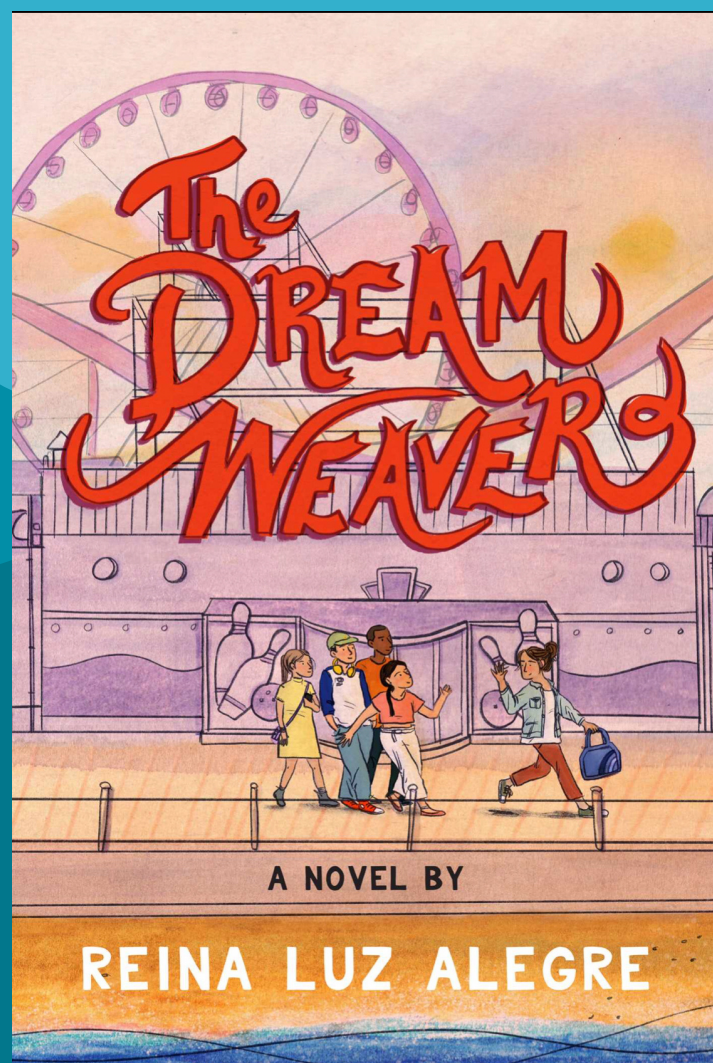
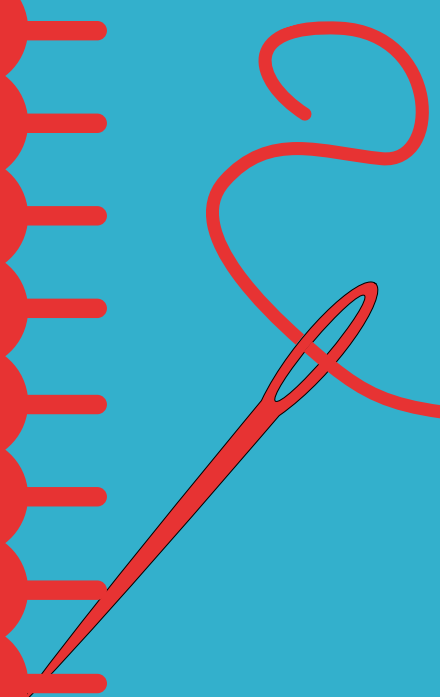
2.

3.

4.

5.

(Chart as many goals as you wish!)



*Discussion Guide created by Reina Luz Alegre.*

