

5. Frizzy by Claribel A. Ortega

Frizzy is about Marlene, a young Dominican girl whose greatest enemy is the hair salon! Through her struggles and triumphs, this heartwarming and gorgeous middle-grade graphic novel shows the radical power of accepting yourself as you are, frizzy curls and all.

Marlene loves three things: books, her cool Tía Ruby and hanging out with her best friend Camila. But according to her mother, Paola, the only thing she needs to focus on is school and "growing up." That means straightening her hair every weekend so she could have "presentable", "good hair".

But Marlene hates being in the salon and does not understand why her curls are not considered pretty by those around her. With a few hiccups, a dash of embarrassment, and the much-needed help of Camila and Tia Ruby—she slowly starts a journey to learn to appreciate and proudly wear her curly hair.

Discussion, revision & competition-like questions for this book are below.

Reading Rivalry Is Not a test!

Note the Reading Rivalry questions are tools used to discuss the book(s) and topics the students read.

The intent of RR is to foster a love of reading, introduce the students to books they may not otherwise choose, provide opportunities to work as a team and have fun!

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1. Who wrote and illustrated the book *Frizzy*?

Frizzy was written by Claribel A. Ortega and illustrated by Rose Bousamara.

2. What is the main character's name in *Frizzy*?

Marlene is the main character in the book *Frizzy*.

3. What is the name of the hairdresser that does Marlene's hair in the salon?

Gleny.

4. What day of the week do they visit the salon?

Sunday.

5. What super star does Marlene wish she were like and then she would not have to go to the salon each week?

Dulce Maria from the Super Amigas, then she could be herself.

6. The book begins with Marlene getting her hair done for a quince (quinceañera), who is having their quinceañera?

Diana Lucia de Castillo (Marlene's cousin).

7. Why does Marlene feel insecure about her hair?

Marlene feels insecure because society, including her family, pressures her to straighten her hair, making her feel like her natural curls are not beautiful.

8. What Aunt was nice to Marlene at the party?

Tia (aunt) Ruby.

9. When Ruby asked Marlene how annoying everyone was at the party on a scale of one to ten, what did Marlene reply?

Twenty-seven (27).

10. Who was crying in the closet with Marlene at the party?

Yesenia

11. Who is Marlene's best friend?

Marlene's best friend is Camilla, she is supportive and accepts Marlene for who she is.

12. Marlene had a plan to do her own hair, but it did not work, how did her mother react?

She said Marlene's hair was a mess, all the time & money at the salon were wasted, then she braided Marlene's hair.

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13. Why did Marlene not tell her mother how she felt?

Marlene did not want to make her mother even more upset, and the salon seemed very important to her mother.

14. After the plan failed Camilla asked if Marlene's mother was angry, what words did Marlene use to describe her mother's anger?

Baby Godzilla.

15. The students in the school were mean to Marlene, what did they put in her hair?

Pieces of tape.

16. Why did Marlene push Ramón in school?

He teased her about her dead father (her father died when Marlene was five).

17. When Tio (uncle) Ernesto and Cousin Diana visited them, Daina said she was happy to have what?

Good hair (implying her hair was better than Marlene).

18. How did Marlene spend the morning at Tía (aunt) Ruby's house?

Planting stuff and telling Ruby about her nightmare day at school, and her feelings about her hair and the salon.

19. Who encourages Marlene to embrace her natural curls?

Ruby encourages her to embrace her natural curls, helping her realize that her curly hair is beautiful and a part of who she is and that embracing her natural self, including her curly hair, is important. (pages 147-183)

20. What is the name of Ruby's hen?

Cantinflas

21. Does Ruby believe in bad hair and good hair?

No, there is no such thing as good hair or bad hair!

22. What type of pizza did Ruby and Marlene order while the product was in?

Half pepperoni, half pineapple & ham.

23. What is the reveal station also known as?

The mirror.

24. Marlene texted Camilla after Ruby helped with her hair, who did Camilla say she was like?

SammieVCurls (the one they saw online on page 55).

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25. How did Stacey react to Marlene's new hair in school?

She apologized for bullying the other day, and she said Marlene now looked like Dulce Maria from Super Amigas.

26. How does Marlene's mothers' perception of beauty change in the book?

She moves from thinking beauty is about conforming to societal standards to understanding that beauty is about being herself and letting her daughter be herself.

Discussion questions

1. What is your favorite thing about the book?
2. Marlene's story shows that self-love is important, no matter how you look. How does Marlene's story inspire others?
3. Frizzy address's important themes like self-acceptance, friendship, and personal growth in a relatable way. Discuss.
4. Marlene's journey reflects real-life struggles many faces with self-esteem, body image, and societal pressures. Discuss.
5. Marlene learns to embrace her natural hair and accept herself for who she is. Discuss.