

# *Kick the Moon* by Muhammad Khan - Discussion Notes

1. **‘This isn’t a mandem. It’s a slavedom.’**

Have you ever felt trapped in a friendship group? How do you know when a friendship is worth it?

2. **‘Superman ain’t no brown boy.’** Do you think there has been an improvement in BAME representation in films, books and TV shows? What would you like to see change in the media?

3. Discuss the way that female characters are talked about and treated in this novel. What was acceptable or unacceptable to you, and why? Do you feel like you could stand up to someone if you overheard them speaking about women in an unacceptable way?

4. **‘For me, drawing is sacred. Go hard or go home.’** Why is it important to have a hobby or a passion? Do you have something that you love in the way Ilyas loves drawing?

5. **‘I’ll be lucky if my dad even lets me go uni[...] He thinks it’s my duty to continue the family business.’** Discuss the expectations Ilyas’ parents have of him and how this effects the choices Ilyas makes about his own future. Why do you think Ilyas’ father feels the way he does? Do you feel a pressure to live up to your family’s expectations?

6. **‘Mrs M thinks I’m a parasite out to drain Kelly of all her talent.’** Kelly’s mum tries to separate Kelly and Ilyas. What were her motivations? How do you think you would handle things if your parents acted in this way?

7. **‘Your gang is about being manly,’ she explains, drawing her hair back. ‘Mine’s about being the “right kind of girl”.’** Discuss the pressures put on teenage boys and girls. Do you think Ilyas and Kelly have more to handle than typical teens? Why/why not?

8. **‘A bunch of privileged kids go to a developing country to gawp at how primitive brown people can be.’** Discuss the impact of race and religion on friendship in the novel.

9. **‘Drawing is my superpower.’** If you could be a super hero, what powers and personality traits would you have?



10. ‘Stop hanging round the house like a flipping girl!’ Dad would say with disgust, watching me colouring in my Spider-Man picture. ‘Go play football with the other lads!’ What do you think makes someone a ‘real man’?

## About the Book:



A powerful, compelling novel from the critically-acclaimed author of *I Am Thunder*, about making friends, and breaking them too.

Fifteen-year-old Ilyas is under pressure from everyone: GCSE's are looming and his teachers just won't let up, his dad wants him to join the family business and his mates don't care about any of it. There's no space in Ilyas' life to just be a teenager.

Serving detention one day, Ilyas finds a kindred spirit in Kelly Matthews, who is fed up with being pigeonholed as the good girl, and their friendship blows the social strata of high school wide open. But when Kelly catches the eye of one of the local bad boys, Imran, he decides to seduce her for a bet – and Ilyas is faced with losing the only person who understands him. Standing up to Imran puts Ilyas' family at risk, but it's time for him to be the superhero he draws in his comic-books, and go kick the moon.

‘This book will make you angry. This book will make you laugh. Muhammad writes with humour and empathy about friendship, belonging, toxic masculinity, maths and - best of all - comic geekery. Fabulous!’ **Patrice Lawrence, award-winning author of OrangeBoy**

‘This is a book about racism, toxic masculinity, bullying and finding your voice. Khan's gift for authentic characters and believable dialogue makes his writing sing’ **Fiona Noble, Bookseller**

‘A resoundingly stark, thought-provoking novel with a heart that burns with hope and courage’ **LoveReading4Kids**

## About the Author

Muhammad Khan is an engineer, a secondary-school maths teacher, and now a YA author! He takes his inspiration from the children he teaches, as well as his own upbringing as a British-born Pakistani. He lives in South London and is studying for an MA in Creative Writing at St Mary's University. He is working on *Kick the Moon*, his second novel for Macmillan Children's Books.



Find out more about *Kick the Moon* by Muhammad Khan at <https://www.panmacmillan.com/authors/muhammad-khan/kick-the-moon>

