

# DYSCALCULIA



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As a thirteen-year-old, Camonghne Felix overhears a conversation about her potential diagnosis of dyscalculia, a learning disorder that prevents efficient mathematical comprehension that “could explain [her] dissociation and daydreaming during class and the careless mistakes but doesn’t necessarily account for the self-harm, the outbursts or the fighting, or the excessive lying.” Talk about the author’s journey toward self-discovery as a youth and through adulthood. What does it take to “solve” the mystery of oneself?
2. Felix uses inventive prose and narrative structure to bring her personal experiences to the page. How, if at all, did the author’s writing style contribute to your reading experience?
3. Talk about mathematics as a metaphor in this book. What does the author mean when she says that “math is the same in every language—and cause and effect is too”?
4. How does Felix quantify (and occasionally miscalculate) love and loss in her life? What did she get right? And how, where, and with whom did she go wrong?
5. Felix writes that “the need to story tell is compulsive and agnostic; unfortunately, everything I need to know about myself becomes document.” What does this book document about the author? What questions is she trying to answer for herself (or the reader)? Do you feel, in the end, that finds a solution?
6. Take a moment to talk about authorial intent. Do you think Felix wrote out of love or rage? Is *Dyscalculia* a memoir of healing or an act of vengeance—or perhaps, for her, they are one and the same? Moreover, do readers really need to know the “why” behind any literary work? Why or why not?
7. What more do you wish to know about this author’s background or current life? If you had the chance to ask Felix one question about *Dyscalculia*—about intent, her writing process, or whether she plans to revisit the themes of this book in another—what might it be?
8. Does the heart have a logic of its own? Can we be taught to love? How can we learn from our errors in judgment? Use these prompts (or come up with your own) to discuss the various thematic takeaways of *Dyscalculia*.