



HC: 978-1-5362-2374-3 • PB: 978-1-5362-3301-8

Also available as an e-book and in audio



Aya de León is the AfroLatina author of *Undercover Latina*, her debut for young readers, and *Untraceable*, a companion book set in the same world, as well as several suspense novels for adults. She teaches creative writing at the University of California, Berkeley, and is active in movements for racial, gender, and climate justice.

ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, MOVEMENTS

The organization that Andréa and her family work for is called the International Alternative Intelligence Consortium (IAIC) and is referred to as “the Factory.” Andréa describes it as an “association of several intelligence organizations of people of color” that uses “different nonviolent strategies” (page 23). Authors name people, places, and things with great intention. Invite readers to consider the following:

- What is the significance of naming this organization “the Factory”? What images or ideas come to mind when you think of the word *factory*, and how do they apply to the story?
- What are some real-life organizations, associations, or movements, past and present, whose principles, methods, and actions are similar to those of the Factory? How do they differ?

LATINE IDENTITY

Racial and cultural identities are complex. Invite students to discuss the complexity of identity within the Latine community. Consider the discussion between Andréa and Mami on pages 257 to 263:

- In what ways do skin privilege and anti-Blackness exist within the Latine community and why? Who benefits from this and who is harmed?
- How can people “unlearn” racist ideas they’ve been taught and racist ideas they have internalized?

WHITE SUPREMACY

White supremacy, if left uninterrogated, can be upheld not only by white people, but by people of color as well. Invite students to reread and discuss pages 266 to 269 and consider the following:

- What is *passing* and what are some of the social, economic, and political conditions that might have led a person of color to choose to “pass” in the past? In what ways do these conditions exist today?
- What is *colorism* and how does it relate to passing?
- Discuss the ways passing, colorism, and anti-Blackness are born of white supremacy.
- What are you learning about the nuanced ways white supremacy exists in this novel and in the world beyond extremist hate groups? In what ways does white supremacy show up in your life and in the world?

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Invite readers to read and discuss the author's note (pages 309–313). Aya de León's words are a rallying cry for solidarity. Ask students to:

- Reflect on ways they've been socialized by and chosen to collaborate with white supremacy, often without realizing it.
- Consider, as the author suggests, ways to stand in solidarity with people of color.
- Imagine a world of racial solidarity. What actions will they take in their own lives to help make this world a reality?



Watch the Candlewick Black Creators series to learn more about Aya de León.
[BlackCreatorsSeries.candlewick.com](https://www.candlewick.com/blackcreatorsseries)

Tip sheet developed by Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul, founder of Red Clay Educators