

Name or Reviewer Username or Anonymous: Anonymous

School: Valencia High

Grade: 11

Junior Book Title: A Pho Love Story

Book Author: Loan Le

Rating (1-lowest to 5-highest): 4

“A Pho Love Story” is a young adult rom-com centering around the story of two rival families’ pho shops. The story delves into family histories/rivalries and a bit into the Vietnamese civil war. This book, told from alternating perspectives, follows a Romeo and Juliet-esque love story between Bao and Linh and themes such as immigration, familial ties, and racism are touched upon in this book.

I think this book was really cute, and I liked how it was a really sweet romance that seemed down to earth and real. My favorite character was Evelyn “Evie” Mai, Linh’s older sister. She was my favorite character because I think that the sister roles that were portrayed in the book were genuine, which was shown when Evie supported Mai’s dreams. Another thing I enjoyed is how it showed how people aren’t perfect and how a misunderstanding can go a long way. This book also touches on the expectations (and stereotyping) of Asian parents, and how being an artist, or anything that isn’t really considered a stable job, is frowned upon.

I would recommend this book to people who enjoy the forbidden romance trope (kind of), and also to other readers who might experience the same problems within their family. A book similar to this is “A Taste of Love”, written by Jennifer Yen, due to the similar topics of family expectations, food, and tensions in families. Personally, this book was also amazing, because of the cultural significance, and I enjoyed how there were different bits of the book that incorporated the Vietnamese language naturally.