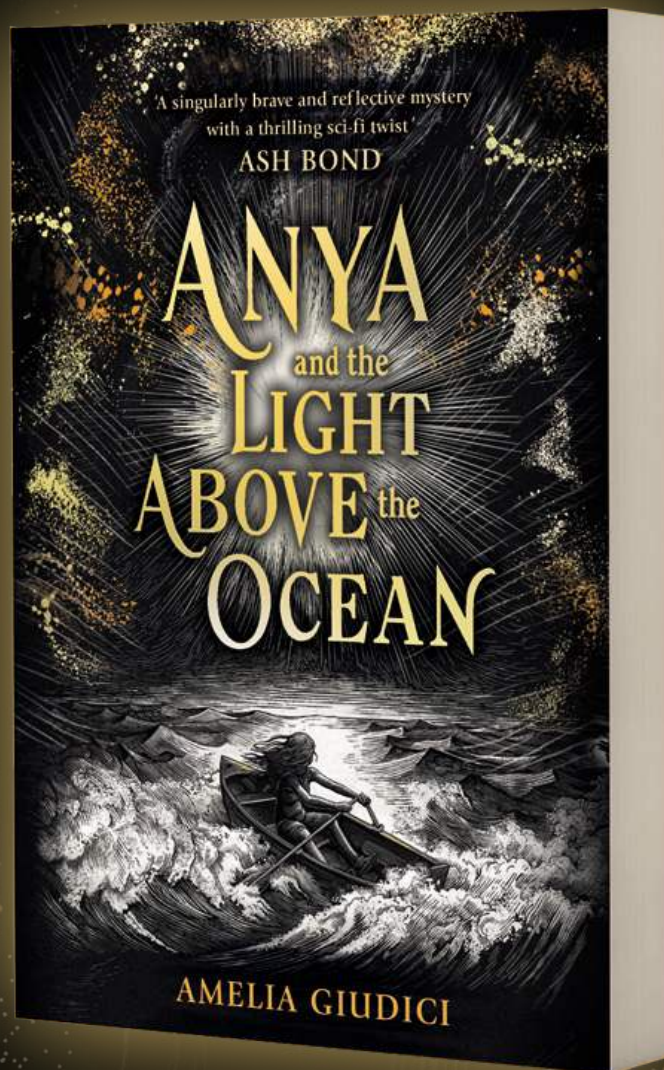


ANYA ^{and the} LIGHT ABOVE ^{the} OCEAN

AMELIA GIUDICI



SCHEME OF WORK AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

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ABOUT THE BOOK

*Anya reached out and placed her
hand against the light.*

And then she was gone.

When her mum disappears, Anya sets out to find her in the middle of a storm. Taking a boat out to sea, she encounters a strange window of light hovering above the waves. Transfixed, she reaches out to touch it. She then wakes in her boat, the sea now eerily silent.

With her mum still missing, Anya is packed off to stay with an odd, unwelcoming couple. Trapped under their watchful gaze, she uncovers a shocking secret that changes everything she thought she knew.

Anya must now battle to find the truth: about her mum, about the Light, and about herself.

Praise for ANYA AND THE LIGHT ABOVE THE OCEAN:

'A reflective mystery with a thrilling sci-fi twist'

ASH BOND

'From the opening page, I felt I had discovered a lost treasure'

ROSS MACKENZIE

'A fresh, immersive and utterly gripping sci-fi story that had me hooked.

Thought-provoking too'

RASHMI SIRDESHPANDE

'A luminous, page-turning adventure with a sci-fi twist'

WATERSTONES

*'A superbly crafted, edge-of-seat, sci-fi thriller... giving readers plenty to think
about long after they finish the book'*

BOOKTRUST



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amelia grew up in New Zealand and Warwickshire. She is currently based in East London where she works as a primary school teacher. Prior to teaching, Amelia studied Philosophy at Cambridge University, where she first encountered the thought problems concerning personal identity that ANYA AND THE LIGHT ABOVE THE OCEAN draws on. This is her debut novel and it was longlisted for the Bath Children's Novel Award 2022. She was also a recipient of a London Writers Award in the same year.

PART 1

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

tight-lipped secret (page 3)	obscuring (page 6)	beckoned her home (page 11)
banal friendliness (page 15)	preeminent (page 18)	cloistered behind (page 26)
betrayal coiled inside her (page 53)	nodded curtly (page 62)	wary avoidance (page 63)

Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false

	True	False
Anya's mum always returns home at 9pm.		
There is a blinding flash when Anya touches the light.		
When Anya returns home, Imani is waiting for her.		
Anya's mum has an important job at Janus.		
Anya loves the Ungsworths' home and feels safe there.		
Anya overhears that she is a 'duplicate'.		

Tick one box in each row to show whether you agree or disagree with the statements. Can you include evidence to support your opinions?

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
Anya has been out rowing on the sea lots of times.			
Imani is lying about something.			
Anya should not trust Mr Eidner.			
Anya has already been informed about Dr Louts' arrival.			
Chapter 9 is the most exciting chapter.			
Paramjeet is a coward.			
Anya is brave, but reckless.			
The character of Anya will appeal to readers.			

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Why do you think the sentence 'She hasn't come home' has been repeated on page 3? What atmosphere does it create? How is Anya feeling?
- Anya selects her waterproof trousers and anorak rather than her cosy cardigan. What might this suggest about Anya? (page 4)
- What does the phrase 'spat down' suggest about the rain? Why do you think words like 'drizzled' haven't been used? (page 5)
- Read to the end of page 9. Where do you predict Anya has gone? Perhaps you could draw and label a picture!
- Imani's voice is 'sharp' but she also encourages Anya to take deep breaths. What might she really be thinking and feeling? Is there a difference between what she says and what she feels? (page 13)
- Why might Anya's cardigan have moved? Is there more than one explanation? (page 14)
- Read to the end of page 14. Do you trust Imani? Why? Why not?
- Why does Anya's grip 'harden' on page 16? What might she be thinking and feeling?
- Use the information on page 17 to draw and label a picture of Mr Eidner. Can you describe him in three words and explain your word choices?
- How did you feel reading mum's letter on page 21? Do you believe it was written and sent by Mum? Why? Why not? Who else could have sent it?
- What can you infer about the relationship between Anya and Paramjeet? (page 29)
- What might Mrs Ungsworth be thinking and feeling on page 32? Why does she stop speaking to Anya?
- Read to the end of page 37. What might Imani and Mrs Ungsworth be talking about? Do you have any predictions?
- Imani and Mrs Ungsworth refer to Anya as a 'Duplicate'. What might this mean? (page 41)
- Anya shoots Paramjeet an 'urgent, pleading look'. Why? What might she be thinking and feeling? (page 48)
- Imagine you are Anya on page 49 and complete these sentences:
I hate this house, but...
I hate this house because...
I hate this house, so...
- In pairs, role-play the conversation between Anya and Paramjeet in Chapter 11. Think about your body language and facial expressions. You could even write this scene out as a playscript!

CREATIVE WRITING IDEAS

Imagine you are Anya on page 4 and write a short diary extract exploring the choice you have. Should you stay inside or venture outside into the storm to find your mum? Talk about the arguments for and against each decision and then summarise what you will choose to do.

Can you have a go at rewriting Chapter 5 from Mrs Ungsworth's perspective? What might she say about the events? What might she be hiding? Why might she seem uncomfortable around Anya? Use this as an opportunity to make predictions and explore Mrs Ungsworth's character and personality.

Read up to page 30 and imagine you are Anya writing your letter to Imani. What might you say about the strange house and Dr Louts?

Imagine you find some other strange documents in Mr Ungsworth's office which help to explain the mystery further. What might these fragments and snippets of information say? Perhaps you can try writing them in the style of the extracts on page 68!

Before reading it, write the opening to Chapter 15. What do you think will happen once Anya is home? Who might be waiting for her? Will she be forced to return to the Ungsworths' home? Use this as an opportunity to explore the central mystery further and make predictions about the top-secret documents.



PART 2

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

transfixed (page 79)	cool, soundless daze (page 79)	hollow with exhaustion (page 80)
battled fruitlessly (page 81)	pragmatism (page 82)	pique Dr Louts' interest (page 84)

Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false

	True	False
Anya uses a flare to get the attention of a lifeboat.		
After the incident, Anya spends two weeks in hospital.		
In Year One, Anya had a teacher called Miss Smith.		
Dr Louts becomes uncomfortable whenever Anya mentions her mum.		

Tick one box in each row to show whether you agree or disagree with the statements. Can you include evidence to support your opinions?

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
Imani is kind and caring.			
Dr Louts is a dangerous man who should not be trusted.			
Imani's behaviour has changed because she feels guilty.			
Imani receives a letter and tells Anya who it's from.			
This version of Anya is too trusting.			
During Chapters 15 to 19, the author switches perspective.			
The light in the ocean has split Anya into two people.			
Both versions of Anya are real.			

DISCUSSION POINTS

- What happens to the timeline of the story in Chapter 15? Does it jump forwards or backwards? Why might this be?
- Imagine you are Anya on page 79. Make a list of everything you might be able to see, hear, taste, touch and smell.
- What might the author mean when they refer to time passing 'murkily'? What does this tell us about Anya? (page 82)
- Dr Louts is described as being 'patient'. How does this make you feel? Do you agree? Do you think Dr Louts is treating the two versions of Anya differently? Why? (page 83)
- How does Dr Louts's demeanour change on page 83? Why might this be?
- Why might Dr Louts change the topic of conversation whenever Anya mentions her mum? Do you think he feels guilty about whatever he's doing or could there be another reason for his behaviour? (page 84)
- Read to the end of page 86. What has Anya suddenly realised? Do you think she will tell Imani? Has Dr Louts given himself away? How might he explain his description of 'last time' to convince Anya that everything is fine?
- What do the verbs 'launched' and 'racing' tell us about Anya? What might she be thinking and feeling in this moment? (page 89)
- Draw a picture of the scene on page 93 where both versions of Anya meet each other. What might their facial expressions look like?
- Anya refers to the duplicate version of her as 'the girl' on page 94? Why? Do you think she's realised what's happened and who she's met?
- We discover on page 96 that the light in the ocean has affected Anya in a strange way. Can you explain what has happened and how Anya has been affected?

CREATIVE WRITING IDEAS

Can you retell the events of these chapters from Imani's perspective? Anya feels like her 'calm steadiness' has 'fractured' and that she has become anxious and scared. Why might this be? What might Imani say about the strange events occurring? How might she feel about looking after this version of Anya?

PART 3

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

interjecting (page 101)	descending night (page 106)	sharpness of her absence (page 107)
speculation (page 109)	imperious (page 123)	dense, clinal tones (page 130)
guard-like mask (page 147)	contorting her body (page 157)	swoop of hope (page 160)

Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false

	True	False
In Chapter 20, Imani decides that they all need to leave and run away.		
Imani and the two versions of Anya hide out in a lighthouse.		
Zora is a shark that's also been affected by the light.		
Imani calls the girls Anya-A and Anya-B.		
Paramjeet's feelings about Anya have changed.		
Mr Eidner refers to Anya-A as 'the Original'.		

Tick one box in each row to show whether you agree or disagree with the statements. Can you include evidence to support your opinions?

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
Imani has purposefully lied to Anya.			
What Janus is doing is unethical.			
Anya understands what kind of work her mum is doing.			
Imani is right to leave Anya-B on page 120.			
I would like to have a duplicate of myself.			
One version of Anya is more real than the other.			
I am finding the story easy to understand.			
The author does a good job of handling a complex story.			

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Whose perspective is Chapter 20 told from? Why might this be?
- Why might this version of Anya want to 'destroy their likeness'? What does this mean? How is she feeling? Overwhelmed? Jealous? Scared? (page 101)
- The answer is 'ZORA'. What might the question be? Is there more than one possibility? (page 110)
- What does the verb 'marched' tell us about what Anya might be thinking and feeling? (page 122)
- How does Shelby Brown feel about Anya-B? How do you know? (page 125)
- What do you think the 'sharp pain' in Anya's arm might be? (page 128)
- Anya starts to feel 'inhuman' on page 134. But why?
- What do you think the 'flash of purple' might be? How might it help Anya? (page 143)
- Anya blinks back tears on page 157. Why? What might she be thinking and feeling? Have you got any ideas about how both girls could escape?
- Spend some time exploring the dilemma on page 158. What does each version of Anya want to do? Do you think they should cut the wires? Why? Why not?
- Read to the end of page 159. How are both versions of Anya similar? Are they different in any ways? How have their separate experiences affected them? You could use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast them!
- Where have you heard the name 'Project Chronos' before? (page 162)
- Read to the end of page 165. How are both versions of Anya developing and changing? What do you think they are learning about each other?
- How does the author make you feel sorry for the dolphins on page 168? Are there any particularly effective words or phrases?
- How does the 'other-Anya' feel about Paramjeet? Why does she treat him like this? (page 171)
- Read to the end of page 176. Do you trust Paramjeet? Why? Why not?
- Do you think 'an echo' is a good way to describe this version of Anya? Why? Why not? (page 181)
- Read up to page 183. How does the author create a sense of tension and excitement at the end of this chapter? Were you surprised by anything? What do you predict will happen next?

CREATIVE WRITING IDEAS

In a group of three, write a playscript to summarise the events in Chapter 20. After you have done this, have a go at performing your playscript. One of you should play Imani while the other two play Anya. Take it in turns to be each character. How does your understanding of each character develop and change each time you play a different character?

How would you feel if you met an identical version of yourself? Can you describe an imaginary meeting between yourself and another version of you? You could talk about your appearance and also have fun punctuating your conversation as each version of yourself interjects and interrupts!

Can you write a short paragraph summarising the conversation between Mum and Imani on page 108? Why might Mum be 'trembling with emotion'? What might they have said to each other?

Spend some time exploring the poem 'Tell Me Shadow' by Zoro Weil which can be found here: <https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/poem/tell-me-shadow/>

Afterwards, have a go at writing a poem in the same style describing the relationship between Anya-A and Anya-B. Is a shadow the same thing as a 'Duplicate'?

PART 4

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

heart was in her mouth (page 187)	buoyed by her memory (page 191)	recalibrate the settings (page 197)
parallel universes (page 198)	infiltrate (page 200)	looked them squarely in the eye (page 201)

Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false

	True	False
Anya-A escapes but Anya-B is captured by Paramjeet.		
Dr Louts and Elizabeth are friends.		
Winston and Mr Ungsworth are the same person.		
Anya-B is not a duplicate. She is from another world.		
The Ungsworths plan on forcing Dr Eidner out of Janus.		
Elizabeth plans on swiping Paramjeet's keycard.		

Tick one box in each row to show whether you agree or disagree with the statements. Can you include evidence to support your opinions?

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
Paramjeet is the most dangerous of all the adults.			
Elizabeth is on Anya's side.			
Anya has been wrong about Dr Louts – he can be trusted.			
Anya-B isn't really a human.			
The light could be a tear between two universes.			
The Ungsworths are kind and generous.			
The adults should listen to Anya-A's plan.			
Anya-A feels sorry for Anya-B.			

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Why do you think 'Anya-B' is repeated in italics on page 189? What might Anya-A be thinking and feeling?
- Read to the end of page 189. What would you do in Anya-A's situation? Would you return for Anya-B? What do you predict she will do?
- Why do you think the upstairs light is on? Who might be there? (page 191)
- Read to the end of page 198. What do we learn about Anya-B and the strange light in the ocean? Were you surprised by this revelation?
- Can you summarise the plan on page 200? How will they force Dr Eidner out of Janus and rescue Anya's mum?
- How do you think Anya-A will get a message to Anya-B? (page 201)

CREATIVE WRITING IDEAS

Imagine you find Mum's work journal. What might it say? What sort of notes and diagrams might it contain? Perhaps you could create a class journal about Mum's experiments and findings. You could make predictions and discuss ways to test and evaluate your mysterious experiments!

PART 5

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

sense of dislocation (page 206)	brain was short-circuiting (page 215)	emboldened (page 228)
uncertainty was palpable (page 228)	diverging (page 235)	monstrously adult (page 244)

Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false

	True	False
The electric lock in Anya's room has been replaced with a mechanical one.		
Both versions of Anya use the fireworks to communicate with each other.		
Elizabeth helps Anya escape by distracting Shelby.		
Mum is proud of Anya.		

Tick one box in each row to show whether you agree or disagree with the statements. Can you include evidence to support your opinions?

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
On page 206, Anya's main feeling is one of hopelessness.			
Anya still cares about Paramjeet.			
Dr Eidner is motivated by money and nothing else.			
Elizabeth goes through the most significant change in the story.			
Paramjeet is more of a villain than Dr Eidner.			
Only one version of Mum comes through the tear.			
What happens to Imani is unfair.			
I found this story exciting and scary.			
Anya-A is braver than Anya-B.			

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Can you summarise the events in Chapter 41 in six sentences?
- What does the phrase 'towered over her' suggest about Dr Eidner? Who has the most power on page 205?
- Anya feels a 'rush of affection' for Paramjeet on page 208. Why? What does that mean? Do you think she will forgive him?
- Read to the end of page 211. What do you think the next phase of the experiment will be?
- The answer is 'FIREWORKS'. What might the question be? Is there more than one possible question? (page 214)
- Read to the end of page 225. Who do you think is still in the room? What might they do?
- Anya isn't sure which version of her mum she's talking to on page 234 but decides it doesn't matter. Why? What might she be thinking and feeling?
- Why do you think the woman does a 'double-take' on page 241? What might she have seen?
- Anya is pulled into the shadows at the end of page 241. Who might have done this? Do you have any theories?
- How have both versions of Anya changed and developed throughout the story? What do you think they have learned about themselves, their friends, and their family?
- Which character do you think has changed the most during this story?
- The main theme in this story is 'WHAT MAKES US HUMAN?'. Do you agree? Why? Why not?
- Do you think this story has a message? If so, what might it be?
- What was your favourite part of the story? Why?
- Who do you think the main character(s) in the story is? Why?
- Do you know anyone like the characters in real life?
- How important are the following themes in the story? Can you order them from least to most important? SCIENCE-FICTION, FAMILY, KINDNESS, HUMANITY, GREED, MONEY.
- What do you think might happen next?

CREATIVE WRITING IDEAS

Imagine you are Anya and write two short diary extracts summarising your adventure. One extract should be written as if you were Anya-A while the other should be written from Anya-B's point of view. Might they have different feelings and ideas about the same events? How might they describe each other?