

*Advocate: A Graphic Memoir of Family, Community, and the Fight for Environmental Justice* by  
Eddie Ahn

Book club Thursday 8/29/24 at 6 PM at Comstock Township Library

Discussion questions

- 1) Have you ever read a graphic novel before? If so, do you have any favorites? If not, what was the experience like for you?
- 2) How does the artwork, including the colors, character and setting depictions, affect your experience of the story?
- 3) Eddie struggles to convey to others, especially his parents, what he does at his nonprofit work both with youth and with Frontlines. Did you understand his work? Have you worked in the non-profit sector before?
- 4) Eddie leaves his nonprofit work with youth to begin his law degree. He explains, "At this point, I had accepted the law as my new career to fulfill my family's idea of success...what my higher education could do for the family," (41-42). What did you think of this decision?
- 5) In pushing for renewable energy, Eddie gets dismissed for being so young, "As if one's youth should automatically discredit ideas for change and activism," (74). What types of responses/attitudes have you witnessed, or personally experienced, toward youths attempting to fix societal issues or make positive changes to their world?
- 6) Eddie devotes so much time and energy to his low-paying nonprofit work. Why does he make personal sacrifices for the good of the community? Are these sacrifices necessary?

7) The author continued to teach himself art as he pursued his career and education. What does art bring to his life?

8) Eddie faced anti-Asian racism that became increasingly targeted during the pandemic. Were you surprised to see this happen in San Francisco, where there is such a large Asian population?

9) The author witnesses his dad's decline and reflects, "Between my nonprofit, government commissions, and art, perhaps I had focused too much on work. My dad never reproached me for not visiting him enough, but I knew his health would likely limit our time together...and I thought a lot about time as the enemy," (190). How does Eddie respond to his feelings of guilt? How can we balance the time we put into our passions and our work with the time we give to others? Is there always a lack of balance?

10) How have you seen climate change and environmental issues addressed by different levels of government? Which issues would you like to see getting addressed or what other changes would you like to see?

Interview with the author:

Comix Experience. (2024). EDDIE AHN for ADVOCATE (Live in-store).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPDDal\\_5\\_Gw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPDDal_5_Gw)