



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Closer to Nowhere

## by Ellen Hopkins



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

### What's It About?

For the most part, Hannah's life is just how she wants it. She has two supportive parents, she's popular at school, and she's been killing it at gymnastics. But when her cousin Cal moves in with her family, everything changes. Cal tells half-truths and tall tales, pranks Hannah constantly, and seems to be the reason her parents are fighting more and more. Nothing is how it used to be. She knows that Cal went through a lot after his mom died and she is trying to be patient, but most days Hannah just wishes Cal never moved in.

For his part, Cal is trying his hardest to fit in, but not everyone is as appreciative of his unique sense of humor and storytelling gifts as he is. Humor and stories might be his defense mechanism, but if Cal doesn't let his walls down soon, he might push away the very people who are trying their best to love him. Told in verse from the alternating perspectives of Hannah and Cal, this is a story of two cousins who are more alike than they realize and the family they both want to save.

### Who Wrote It?

Ellen was born in California and adopted soon after. She lived in Hollywood near famous people including Elvis Presley! She was a smart student who always liked to read and write, but admits to being a bit of a rebel! One of her hobbies as a child was riding horses. Now as an adult she likes to garden and cook. She also likes to travel and spends around 100 days a year, doing school and library visits, book signings and festivals, writers conferences, and other events. Before Ellen wrote books she wrote articles for newspapers and magazines.



Closer to Nowhere is Ellen's first middle grade book, but she has many other YA novels in verse. You can learn more about Ellen and her books on her website: [www.ellenhopkins.com](http://www.ellenhopkins.com).

AR Reading Level: 3.7

Lexile Level: 490L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆

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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.