Name _____   **Date** _____

Other Words for Home
by Jasmine Warga

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?

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of 'Middle Eastern,' an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is. This lyrical, life-affirming story written as a novel in verse is about losing and finding home and, most importantly, finding yourself.

Who Wrote It?

I was born on April 24, 1988 at 11:59 PM in Cincinnati, Ohio. This means that I am a Taurus if you are into astrology and star stuff, which I most definitely am. Also, like all other people from Cincinnati, I am inordinately proud of my little Midwestern city and think that Graeter's black raspberry chip ice cream is the most delicious food in the whole world. (I'm really into a baby hippo named Fiona, too. She makes her home at the Cincinnati Zoo.) I loved to read. I also loved to tell stories. I come from a long-line of story-tellers. I only met my paternal grandmother twice—she lived in Jordan—but one of my most distinct childhood

memories is of her telling me a story about the mermaids that live in the Dead Sea. That story has stayed with me for years. Stories are the way I make sense of our messy and complicated world.

AR Reading Level: 5.3   Lexile Level: 930L

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.