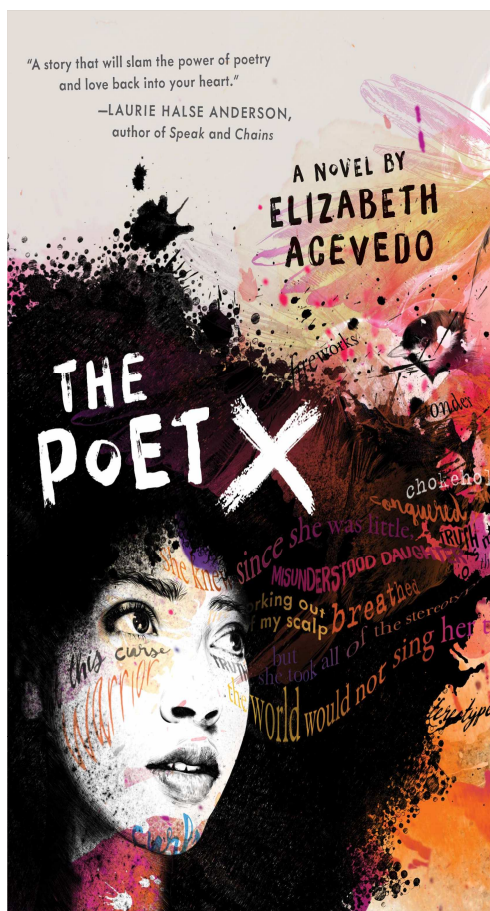


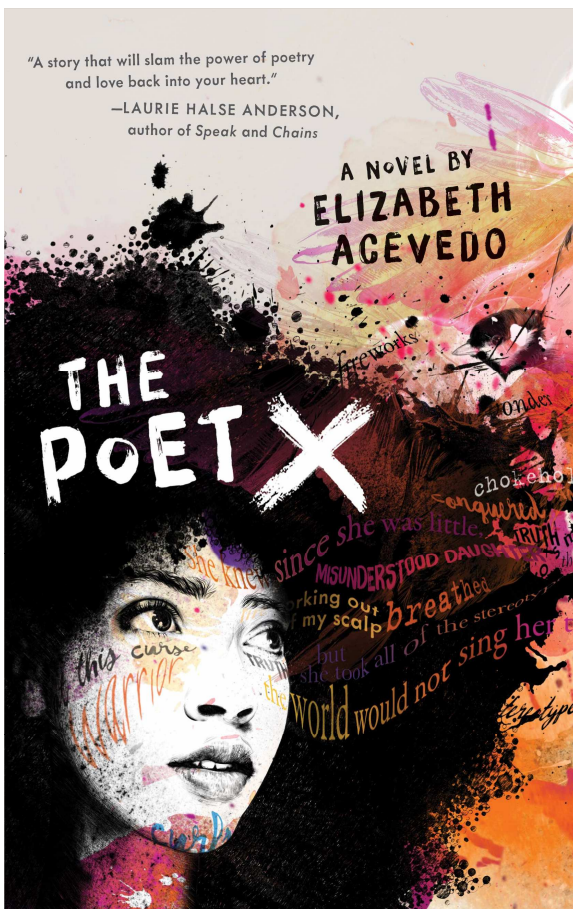
11 English – Class 14



I have never experience a silence like this.  
A hundred people waiting.  
Waiting for me to speak.

And I don't think I can do it.  
My hands are shaking too much,  
and I can't remember the first line of the poem.  
Just a big-ass blank yawning in my memory.  
My heart dribbles hard in my chest.  
at the stairs leading to the stage—

Use the first 15 minutes of  
class to  
REHEARSE,  
REHEARSE,  
REHEARSE



### The Mic is Open

—and the first line clicks.  
I say it, my voice trembling.  
I clear my throat.  
I take a breath.  
I begin the poem all over again.  
I forget the comparisons.  
I forget the nerves.  
I let the words fill the room.  
I let the words carry me away.

People watch. They listen,  
and when I'm done  
saying a poem I've practiced  
in my mirror, they clap.  
And it sounds so loud  
that I want to cover my ears,  
cover my face.

# The Mic is Open!

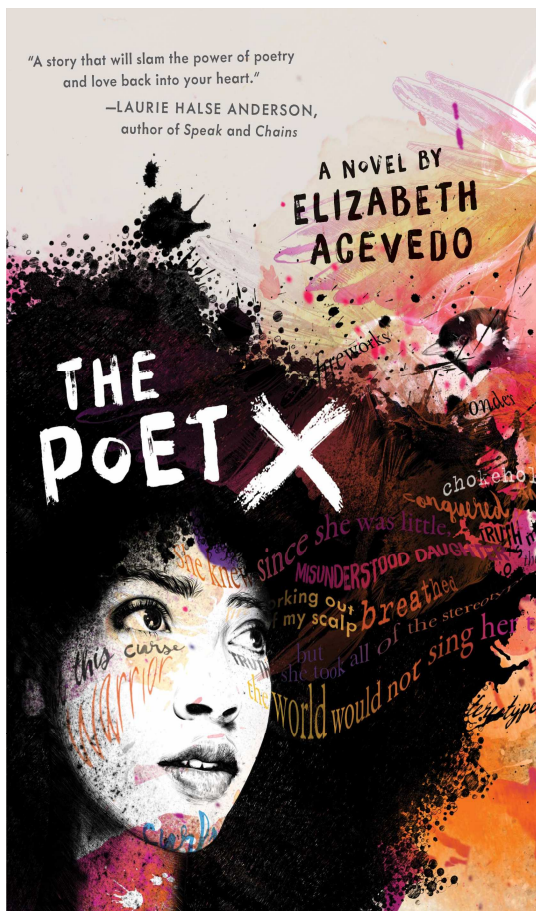


## *The Poet X* Discussion Questions

### Silence

1. How does Xiomara reckon with her own silence? Have you ever felt silenced? Why or why not?
1. What does it mean to “hold a poem in the body”? Do you think you have words living inside of you? What words are they?

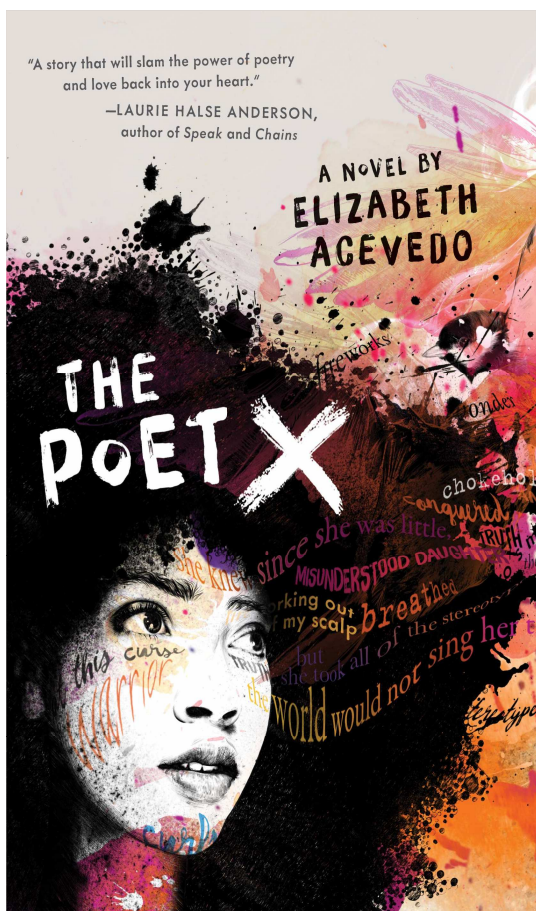




## *The Poet X* Discussion Questions

### Silence

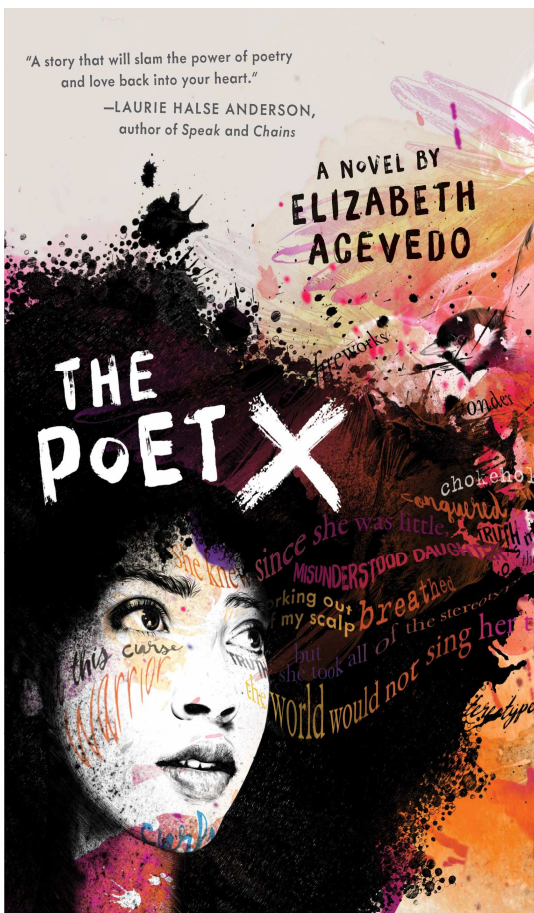
3. How does Xiomara feel about her brother being gay? How does she think her silence affects Twin? Have you ever stayed silent and wished you hadn't? How can you speak up in your own life?



## *The Poet X* Discussion Questions

### Voice

4. Why does Xiomara feel as though "[her] word are okay" when she is in Ms. Galiano's class, but not when she is with other people or in other places? Do you have a place where your words feel more or less safe? What makes a person or a place feel safe?

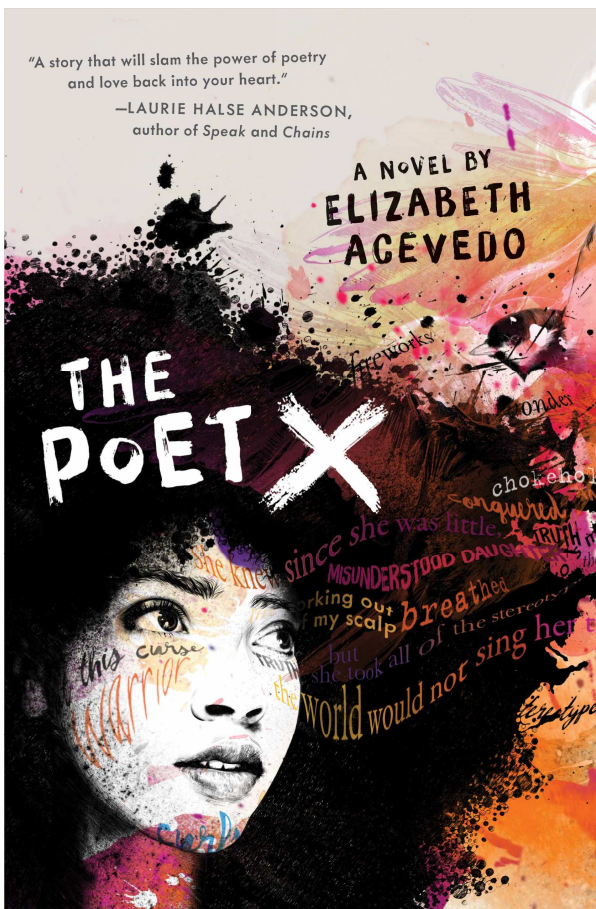


## *The Poet X* Discussion Questions

### Voice

5. Have you ever heard a poem or song or seen a movie that made you feel seen?

6. Why does Xiomara call poetry club a prayer circle? Do you think that writing can be healing? Do you think art can be healing?



“Explain your favorite quote”

"The belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary; men alone are quite capable of every wickedness."

