Meet Abbie Wu. Abbie is in crisis—and not just because she’s starting middle school or because she’s stuck in a family that doesn’t quite get her or because everyone seems to have a Thing except her. Abbie Wu is always in crisis.

From debut author and professional doodler Booki Vivat, Frazzled dives right into the mind of this hilariously neurotic middle school girl as she tries to figure out who she is and where she belongs. Frazzled is heavily illustrated, embarrassingly honest, and sure to appeal to anyone in the middle of figuring out how to survive the everyday disasters of growing up.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Review the author’s use of onomatopoeia. How do these words help describe the action within the story? Ask the readers if they prefer seeing the onomatopoeia as opposed to a drawing of the action.

2. Discuss whether readers are analyzing the illustrations first or reading the text first. Do the illustrations help with comprehension of the text?

3. Explore the graphic novelist’s use of word clouds. Do the word clouds themselves create an image? How do they reflect the characters’ moods?

4. In a “spread,” an illustrator uses images that encompass one or two full pages. Illustrators use page spreads to capture the reader’s attention to the mood, tone, etc. Examine the page spreads on 86 & 87, 207 & 206. Why did the illustrator use a spread on each of the pages listed to develop the story? Did the details on the pages clarify Abbie’s feeling about school?

5. Lettering is another way a graphic novelist can create tone and mood. Different fonts, font size, and word capitalization can all be used to reflect action and mood. Show how fonts can elicit different reactions from the reader. For example, on page 173 the word PERMANENT looks as if it were written in permanent marker. How effective was this choice?

6. Discuss the diversity of the characters. Does the illustrator make the characters relatable? Discuss Abbie’s family dynamics. How will readers identify with Abbie?

**EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**

Hidden Messages. On page 145, discuss how the characters were able to use hidden messages to convey their secret movement. Divide students into groups and see if they can create a poster with a clandestine message.

Word Clouds. Like Abbie’s story, middle school is an adjustment for many students transitioning from elementary school. Have readers use a word cloud generator such as Wordle.com or similar to create their experience with starting middle school. Have students present their word clouds to the class.