A Very Large Expanse Of Sea English Edition Workbook

a very large expanse of sea english edition refers to a literary work that captures the vastness, depth, and mystery of the ocean through compelling storytelling and vivid descriptions. This novel has captivated readers worldwide, offering an immersive experience that explores themes of nature, human resilience, and existential reflection. In this article, we will delve into the details of this remarkable book, its themes, significance, and what makes it a must-read in contemporary literature.

Introduction to "A Very Large Expanse of Sea" (English Edition)

"A Very Large Expanse of Sea" is a young adult novel written by Tahereh Mafi. Published in 2018, it has received critical acclaim for its honest portrayal of identity, faith, and the challenges faced by Muslim-American teenagers in the post-9/11 era. The novel provides a nuanced perspective on cultural integration, prejudice, and self-acceptance, resonating with diverse audiences around the globe.

Summary of the Plot

The Main Character: Shirin

The story centers around Shirin, a 17-year-old Iranian-American girl navigating high school life in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. Her experiences reflect the struggles of maintaining her cultural identity while trying to fit in with her peers.

Major Themes and Conflicts

The novel explores several key themes:

- **Identity and Self-Discovery:** Shirin's journey to understand who she is beyond external labels.
- **Prejudice and Islamophobia:** The impact of societal biases on her self-esteem and relationships.
- **Love and Friendship:** Her romantic feelings and the importance of genuine connections.
- **Faith and Culture:** Balancing religious beliefs with modern societal expectations.

Throughout the narrative, Shirin faces internal and external conflicts that challenge her worldview

and push her towards personal growth.

The Significance of "A Very Large Expanse of Sea"

Representation and Diversity

The novel is praised for its authentic portrayal of Muslim-American adolescents, a demographic often underrepresented in mainstream literature. It provides insight into their experiences, fostering empathy and understanding among readers from different backgrounds.

Addressing Post-9/11 Challenges

Set in the early 2000s, the story captures the societal atmosphere of suspicion and fear that affected Muslim communities. It sheds light on the personal toll of such environments, emphasizing resilience and hope.

Promoting Self-Acceptance

Shirin?s journey highlights the importance of embracing one?s identity amidst external pressures. The book encourages young readers to find confidence in themselves and their heritage.

Literary Style and Reception

Writing Style

Tahereh Mafi employs a poetic and heartfelt prose style, blending lyrical descriptions with honest dialogue. Her writing captures the emotional nuances of adolescence and cultural conflict, making the story both engaging and thought-provoking.

Critical Reception

The novel has been highly praised by critics and readers alike. It has received numerous awards and nominations, including:

- YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award
- Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Young Adult Fiction

Readers commend its authentic voice, emotional depth, and timely themes.

Themes and Messages in the Novel

Understanding Cultural Identity

The novel emphasizes the importance of cultural roots and encourages young people to take pride in their heritage, even when they face societal prejudice.

Challenging Stereotypes

By portraying a Muslim-American girl with depth and complexity, the book challenges stereotypes and promotes nuanced understanding.

Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Shirin?s experiences demonstrate resilience and strength, inspiring readers to persevere through their own challenges.

Impact on Readers and Society

Empowering Young Adults

The book serves as a source of empowerment for young Muslim-Americans and minority youth, affirming their experiences and identities.

Fostering Cultural Awareness

It acts as an educational tool for readers unfamiliar with Muslim culture, promoting empathy and cultural literacy.

Encouraging Dialogue

The novel sparks conversations about identity, faith, and societal biases, contributing to greater understanding and social cohesion.

Where to Find and How to Access the Book

The English edition of "A Very Large Expanse of Sea" is widely available in bookstores, online retailers, and libraries. It is published in paperback, hardcover, and e-book formats, making it accessible to a broad audience.

- Amazon
- Barnes & Noble

- Local bookstores
- Public libraries

For educators and reading groups, many editions come with discussion guides to facilitate meaningful conversations about the themes.

Conclusion

"A Very Large Expanse of Sea" (English edition) stands out as a poignant and timely novel that combines compelling storytelling with social relevance. Its exploration of identity, faith, and resilience provides valuable insights into the experiences of Muslim-American youth while fostering empathy among a diverse readership. Whether you're seeking an engaging young adult story or a meaningful reflection on cultural diversity, this book offers a profound and inspiring read that will resonate long after the final page.

Why You Should Read "A Very Large Expanse of Sea"

- It provides authentic representation of Muslim-American teenagers.
- It addresses important social issues like prejudice and identity.
- It offers a heartfelt narrative that encourages self-acceptance.
- It is beautifully written, combining lyrical prose with relatable characters.
- It promotes empathy, understanding, and cultural awareness.

Embark on this literary journey to explore the vastness of human experience and the strength of the human spirit through the lens of Shirin?s story.

A Very Large Expanse of Sea: An In-Depth Review of the Powerful Novel by Tahereh Mafi

Introduction

A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi is a compelling and heartfelt novel that explores themes of identity, faith, love, and resilience in the face of adversity. Since its publication, the book has garnered widespread acclaim for its honest portrayal of a young Muslim girl navigating life in post-9/11 America. Mafi's lyrical writing style, combined with nuanced characters and timely themes, makes this novel a significant contribution to contemporary young adult literature. This review aims to delve deeply into various aspects of the book, including its plot, themes, character development, writing style, and overall impact.

Overview and Plot Summary

A Very Large Expanse of Sea centers around Shirin, a 16-year-old Muslim girl living in a small, predominantly white town in Connecticut. The story takes place shortly after the September 11 attacks, a period marked by heightened suspicion and prejudice against Muslims and those perceived as Middle Eastern. Shirin faces daily microaggressions, institutional bias, and personal struggles with her faith and identity. Despite these challenges, she seeks to find her place in a world that often seems hostile.

The narrative intertwines Shirin?s internal monologue with her experiences, highlighting her journey toward self-acceptance and love. A pivotal part of her story involves her developing a romance with an American boy named Ocean James, whose family has their own complexities and prejudices. Their relationship becomes a source of hope and vulnerability, symbolizing the possibility of understanding and connection across cultural divides.

Strengths of the Plot:

- Realistic depiction of post-9/11 American society.
- Focus on internal growth and resilience.
- Complex family dynamics and friendships.
- Themes of love, faith, and identity woven seamlessly.

Potential Weaknesses:

- Some readers may find the pacing uneven at times.
- The heavy emotional themes may be intense for sensitive readers.

Themes and Messages

A Very Large Expanse of Sea tackles numerous important themes that resonate deeply with young adult audiences and beyond.

Faith and Identity

One of the central themes is the exploration of faith and cultural identity. Shirin?s Muslim faith is integral to her sense of self, but she struggles with how others perceive her. Mafi presents a nuanced view of religious identity, emphasizing that faith can be a source of strength rather than fear or shame.

Prejudice and Acceptance

Set against the backdrop of post-9/11 America, the novel highlights the prejudice faced by Muslim communities. It underscores the importance of empathy, understanding, and challenging stereotypes. Shirin's experiences serve as a mirror to societal issues, encouraging readers to reflect on their own biases and promote inclusivity.

Love and Vulnerability

The romance between Shirin and Ocean is portrayed with sensitivity and realism. It demonstrates that love requires vulnerability and courage, especially when societal pressures threaten to interfere. Their relationship symbolizes hope and the possibility of bridging cultural divides through genuine connection.

Resilience and Self-Acceptance

Throughout the novel, Shirin?s resilience shines as she confronts external pressures and internal doubts. Her journey underscores the importance of self-love and embracing one?s identity despite adversity.

Character Development

Shirin is a richly developed protagonist whose internal struggles and growth form the heart of the novel.

- Depth and Complexity: Shirin?s thoughts, fears, and hopes are portrayed with authenticity.
- Relatability: Many readers will see parts of themselves in her internal conflicts.
- Growth Arc: She evolves from feeling isolated and misunderstood to embracing her identity and finding love.

Ocean James complements Shirin?s character with his own complexities.

- Understanding and Compassion: Ocean?s open-mindedness helps bridge cultural gaps.
- Personal Growth: His background and family history add layers to his character.

Supporting Characters such as Shirin?s family and friends add richness to the story, illustrating diverse perspectives within the community.

Writing Style and Literary Devices

Tahereh Mafi?s writing style in A Very Large Expanse of Sea is poetic, lyrical, and emotionally

charged. Her prose often reads like a personal journal or a series of heartfelt letters, immersing readers into Shirin?s inner world.

Features of the Writing Style:

- Use of vivid imagery that captures the emotional landscape.
- Short, impactful sentences that heighten tension.
- Incorporation of Arabic phrases and cultural references, adding authenticity.
- Poignant metaphors that deepen the themes.

Literary Devices:

- First-person narration for intimacy.
- Symbolism: The vast sea represents both physical distance and emotional depth.
- Juxtaposition: Contrasts between hope and despair, faith and doubt.
- Flashbacks: Providing context for character motivations and histories.

This poetic style enhances the emotional resonance of the novel, making it a memorable reading experience.

Strengths and Features

- Timely and Relevant Themes: Addresses contemporary issues such as Islamophobia, identity, and love across cultural boundaries.
- Authentic Representation: Provides a nuanced portrayal of Muslim life in America.
- Emotional Depth: Connects deeply with readers on a personal level.
- Beautiful Prose: Mafi?s lyrical language elevates the storytelling.
- Diverse Characters: Reflects various perspectives within the Muslim community and broader society.

Potential Drawbacks

- Pacing Issues: Some sections may feel slow or introspective, which might challenge readers expecting a fast-paced plot.
- Emotional Intensity: The novel deals with heavy themes that could be overwhelming for some.
- Limited External Conflict: Much of the tension is internal or relational, which may not satisfy readers seeking external action.

Audience and Reception

A Very Large Expanse of Sea resonates strongly with young adults, especially those navigating their own cultural or religious identities. Its honest portrayal of prejudice and resilience offers comfort and validation to readers in similar situations. The novel has also been praised for fostering empathy and broadening understanding among diverse audiences.

Critics have lauded Mafi?s poetic prose and sincere storytelling, with many noting its importance in diversifying young adult literature. However, some have pointed out that the heavy emotional themes may require reader discretion.

Final Thoughts and Recommendation

A Very Large Expanse of Sea is a beautifully written, emotionally impactful novel that tackles complex themes with sensitivity and grace. Tahereh Mafi?s lyrical style, combined with authentic characters and relevant social commentary, makes this book a must-read for anyone interested in stories about resilience, love, and cultural identity.

Pros:

- Powerful portrayal of faith and identity
- Beautiful, lyrical prose
- Realistic depiction of prejudice and acceptance
- Rich, multidimensional characters
- Timely themes that promote empathy

Cons:

- Pacing may be slow for some readers
- Heavy emotional themes could be overwhelming
- Focus largely on internal conflict

Overall, A Very Large Expanse of Sea is a poignant and inspiring novel that invites readers to reflect on their own assumptions and embrace diversity. Its relevance in today's social climate makes it a valuable addition to contemporary literature, especially for young adults seeking stories of hope and resilience amid adversity. Whether as a personal read or a classroom discussion starter, this book leaves a lasting impression and encourages meaningful dialogue about identity, faith, and love.

QuestionAnswer What is 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea' about? 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea'

is a novel that explores the experiences of a Muslim girl navigating high school, identity, and faith in the aftermath of 9/11, highlighting themes of Islamophobia, resilience, and self-discovery. Who is the author of 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea'? The book is written by Tahereh Mafi, an acclaimed author known for her young adult fiction exploring complex social issues. Why has 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea' become a trending book? The novel has gained popularity for its timely themes of tolerance, identity, and faith, resonating with readers interested in social justice, diversity, and representation in literature. What age group is 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea' suitable for? It is primarily aimed at young adult readers, roughly ages 13 and up, due to its themes and content dealing with adolescence and social issues. Has 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea' received any notable awards or recognition? Yes, the book has been praised critically and was a New York Times bestseller, also receiving positive reviews for its honest portrayal of Muslim-American experiences. Are there any adaptations of 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea'? As of now, there are no official film or television adaptations of the novel, but it remains popular in book clubs and educational settings. What are some common themes explored in 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea'? Key themes include identity, faith, prejudice, resilience, friendship, and the search for belonging in a sometimes hostile world. How has 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea' impacted young readers? Many young readers report that the book has helped them understand diverse perspectives, foster empathy, and feel seen and validated in their own experiences. Where can I find discussions or reviews about 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea'? You can find discussions and reviews on platforms like Goodreads, BookTok, educational forums, and book review websites, which often feature insights into its themes and relevance.

Related keywords: vast ocean, expansive sea, wide oceanic area, enormous water body, vast maritime expanse, large sea region, immense ocean surface, extensive maritime zone, broad sea stretch, colossal marine expanse

AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE

An Introduction to English Language

The English language is one of the most widely spoken and influential languages in the world today. From global business and international diplomacy to entertainment and technology, English serves as a vital communication tool across countless domains. Understanding the roots, development, and characteristics of the English language is essential for learners, educators, linguists, and anyone interested in global communication. This comprehensive guide aims to provide an insightful introduction to the English language, exploring its history, structure, global significance, and future trends.

Historical Background of the English Language

The Origins of English

English is a Germanic language that originated in early medieval England. Its roots can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon tribes?Angles, Saxons, and Jutes?that migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. The language spoken by these tribes formed the basis of Old English.

The Evolution Through Ages

The history of English is marked by several distinct periods:

- **Old English (c. 450?1150 AD):** Characterized by Germanic roots, Old English was heavily influenced by Norse invaders and Latin church influence.
- **Middle English (c. 1150?1500 AD):** Marked by Norman conquest in 1066, which introduced Norman French vocabulary and grammar influences.
- **Early Modern English (c. 1500?1700 AD):** The Renaissance brought a revival of classical learning, expanding vocabulary and standardizing spelling and grammar.
- **Modern English (1700 AD to present):** The language continued to evolve with colonial expansion, technological advances, and globalization, leading to the diverse forms of English spoken today.

The Role of Literary and Cultural Influences

English literature, from Geoffrey Chaucer?s Canterbury Tales to William Shakespeare?s plays and modern authors like J.K. Rowling, has significantly shaped the language?s development. Cultural exchanges through colonization, trade, and diplomacy have also contributed to the vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in English.

The Structure and Features of the English Language

Phonology and Pronunciation

English phonology includes a wide range of vowel and consonant sounds. The pronunciation varies significantly across different regions and accents, which adds to the language's richness but also presents challenges for learners.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts one of the largest vocabularies among languages, with estimates ranging from

150,000 to over a million words, considering technical and scientific terms. This extensive lexicon is a result of:

- Borrowings from Latin, French, Greek, and other languages
- Coining of new terms during technological and scientific advancements
- Slang and colloquialisms evolving over time

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar is characterized by:

- Relatively simple verb conjugation compared to other languages
- Use of auxiliary verbs for tense and aspect (e.g., be, have, do)
- Flexible word order, with Subject-Verb-Object being standard
- Extensive use of prepositions and articles

Writing System

English uses the Latin alphabet, consisting of 26 letters. Its orthography (spelling system) can be complex due to historical spelling conventions, silent letters, and irregular pronunciation rules.

The Global Significance of the English Language

English as a Global Lingua Franca

Today, English is regarded as the world?s primary lingua franca?an auxiliary language used for international communication. It is the official or working language in over 50 countries and widely used in international organizations like the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

English in Business and Commerce

English dominates international business, finance, and trade. Many multinational corporations operate primarily in English, and proficiency is often a prerequisite for global career opportunities.

English in Science, Technology, and Education

A significant portion of scientific research, technological development, and academic publications are in English. Universities worldwide offer courses in English to attract international students.

English in Media and Entertainment

English-language media, including movies, music, television, and literature, have a global reach. Hollywood films, English pop music, and online streaming platforms have popularized the language worldwide.

English on the Internet and Social Media

English is the dominant language on the internet, accounting for a large percentage of online content. Social media platforms facilitate global interaction primarily in English, further fostering its universal status.

Learning and Teaching the English Language

Why Learn English?

Learning English offers numerous benefits:

- Access to a vast amount of information and educational resources
- Enhanced employability and career prospects
- Ability to communicate with people worldwide
- Participation in global culture and entertainment

Methods of Learning English

Effective approaches include:

- Classroom instruction with trained teachers
- Online courses and language learning apps
- Immersive experiences through travel and cultural exchange
- Practice with native speakers or language exchange partners

Challenges in Learning English

Some common difficulties faced by learners are:

- Complex spelling and pronunciation rules
- Irregular verb forms

- Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs
- Regional accents and dialects

The Future of the English Language

Emerging Trends

English continues to evolve with technological innovations:

- Increased influence of digital communication and social media
- Emergence of new slang and internet vernacular
- Globalization leading to more diverse accents and dialects
- Integration of loanwords from other languages due to cultural exchange

Potential Challenges

As the language grows, there are concerns about:

- Language homogenization potentially overshadowing regional dialects
- Loss of linguistic diversity
- Difficulty in maintaining standardization across different regions

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic and influential means of communication. Its rich history, extensive vocabulary, and widespread use make it an invaluable global asset. Whether for personal growth, academic pursuits, or professional development, learning English opens doors to countless opportunities. As the world continues to embrace globalization and technological innovation, the role of English is poised to expand further, shaping the future of international communication.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Introduction to English language
- History of English
- English language structure
- Global importance of English
- Learn English online
- English language development

- English as a lingua franca
- Benefits of learning English
- Future of the English language
- English language learning tips

Introduction to the English Language: A Comprehensive Overview

The English language, often regarded as the global lingua franca, has a rich history, complex structure, and widespread influence that permeates nearly every corner of the world. As one of the most widely spoken and studied languages today, understanding its fundamentals offers invaluable insights into its role in communication, culture, and international relations. This detailed exploration delves into the origins, evolution, grammatical features, vocabulary, phonetics, and the significance of English in contemporary society.

Historical Background of the English Language

Origins and Early Development

The roots of English trace back over 1,400 years to the Germanic tribes?namely the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes?who migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. These tribes brought with them their languages, which gradually coalesced into what we now call Old English.

Key points about early English:

- Old English (circa 450?1150 AD): Characterized by a complex system of inflections, a vocabulary heavily influenced by Latin and Norse, and a rich oral tradition including epic poetry like Beowulf.
- Influence of Latin and Norse: Latin arrived through Christian missionaries, while Norse influence increased due to Viking invasions, shaping vocabulary and syntax.

Middle English and the Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest of 1066 marked a pivotal turning point:

- Norman French influence: The ruling class spoke Norman French, which heavily influenced the vocabulary, especially in law, governance, art, and cuisine.
- Language features: Middle English (circa 1150?1500) saw simplification of inflectional endings and an expansion of vocabulary.

Early Modern English and the Renaissance

From the late 15th to the early 17th century:

- The Renaissance: Brought a revival of classical learning and an influx of Latin and Greek words.
- The printing press: Invented by Johannes Gutenberg, it standardized spelling and grammar, making literature more accessible.
- Notable figures: William Shakespeare and the King James Bible significantly shaped the language.

Modern English and Global Spread

Since the 17th century:

- Colonial expansion: British colonization spread English worldwide.
- Industrial Revolution: Facilitated international trade and communication.
- Contemporary English: Continues to evolve with influences from numerous languages and cultures, especially in the digital age.

Structural Aspects of the English Language

Phonetics and Pronunciation

English phonetics is known for its complexity and variability:

- Consonant and vowel sounds: The language features approximately 24 consonant sounds and around 20 vowel sounds, with many variations.
- Spelling and pronunciation discrepancies: Due to historical influences, English spelling often does not align directly with pronunciation (e.g., though vs. through).

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar, while relatively straightforward compared to some languages, has distinctive features:

- Parts of speech: Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

- Sentence structure: Typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order.
- Tenses: Present, past, future, along with perfect and progressive aspects.
- Agreement: Subject-verb agreement in number and person.
- Modifiers: Use of adjectives and adverbs to add detail.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts an extensive vocabulary, estimated at over a million words:

- Loanwords: Borrowed extensively from Latin, French, Greek, German, and many other languages.
- Synonyms and antonyms: Rich variety of words with nuanced differences, offering precision and expressiveness.
- Neologisms: Continual creation of new words, especially in technology and popular culture.

Unique Features of the English Language

Orthography and Spelling

English spelling can be irregular due to its diverse origins:

- Historical influences: Words retain spellings from older forms or borrowed languages.
- Examples: Knight, psychology, colonel.
- Spelling reforms: There have been proposals but no widespread standardization.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs are integral:

- Idioms: Phrases whose meanings are not deducible from individual words (e.g., kick the bucket).
- Phrasal verbs: Verb + particle combinations with idiomatic meanings (e.g., look up, give in).

Varieties and Dialects

English manifests in numerous dialects:

- British English: Variations like Cockney, Received Pronunciation.
- American English: Distinct vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Other varieties: Australian, Canadian, Indian English, each with unique features.

The Role of English in the Modern World

Global Lingua Franca

English is the primary language of:

- International diplomacy
- Business and commerce
- Science and technology
- Entertainment and media

English in Education and Research

- Most scientific journals publish in English.
- Universities worldwide offer courses in English.
- English proficiency is often a requirement for international careers.

The Digital Age and English

- Dominance in internet content, social media, and digital communication.
- Emergence of digital slang, memes, and abbreviations, influencing language evolution.

Cultural Impact

- English-language music, films, and literature shape global pop culture.
- Cultural exchange and understanding facilitated through shared language.

Learning and Teaching English

Methods and Approaches

- Traditional grammar-translation

- Communicative language teaching
- Immersive and bilingual approaches
- Use of technology and online platforms

Challenges for Learners

- Irregular spelling and pronunciation
- Idiomatic expressions
- Extensive vocabulary
- Variations in dialects and accents

Resources and Tools

- Language apps (Duolingo, Babbel)
- Online courses and tutorials
- Media and literature in English
- Language exchange programs

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic, influential, and complex means of communication. Its history reflects centuries of cultural exchange and adaptation, shaping a language that is both diverse and adaptable. For learners, educators, and global citizens alike, understanding English?s structure, history, and role in society unlocks numerous opportunities for connection, learning, and cultural appreciation. As it continues to evolve in the digital age, English?s significance is poised to grow, cementing its status as a cornerstone of international communication.

In summary, mastering the English language provides access to a vast repository of knowledge, culture, and opportunities. Its rich history and widespread use make it a fascinating subject of study and an essential skill in today?s interconnected world. Whether for academic pursuits, professional advancement, or cultural engagement, an introduction to English opens the door to endless possibilities.

QuestionAnswer What are the key features that define the English language? English is a West Germanic language characterized by a rich vocabulary, extensive use of loanwords, and a flexible grammar system. It is known for its adaptability, widespread global use, and its role as a lingua franca in international communication. How did the English language develop over time? English evolved from the Anglo-Saxon languages brought to Britain by Germanic tribes around the 5th century. It was later influenced by Norman French, Latin, and other languages, leading to the

Modern English we use today. This development spans Old English, Middle English, and Modern English periods. Why is English considered a global language? English is considered a global language because it is the primary or secondary language in many countries, used extensively in international business, science, technology, entertainment, and diplomacy, making it a key tool for global communication. What are the main components of learning the English language? Learning English involves mastering four main components: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Additionally, understanding grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural context are essential for effective communication. How has the internet influenced the spread and evolution of the English language? The internet has accelerated the global spread of English, introduced new slang, abbreviations, and digital communication styles, and facilitated intercultural exchange, thereby continuously shaping and evolving the language in real-time.

Related keywords: English language, language learning, linguistics, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, phonetics, language skills, language history

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