

NurtureStore Tween Book Club

El Deafo by Cece Bell :: discussion questions



1 :: What did you think of the format and look the book? Have you read any other graphic novels?

2 :: How does Cece use her pictures to show her experience?

3 :: This book is an autobiography: a story of a person's life written by the person themselves. What are some of the risks when you are writing about yourself? What are some of the challenges when you are writing about other real people?

4 :: At first, in chapter one, Cece she doesn't know she is deaf. Do you think her parents should have told her? Should parents always tell their children if they have a disability, difference, condition or illness?

5 :: On page 81, Cece is surprised when she sees someone who is deaf in a TV programme. Do the TV programmes you watch show a diverse range of people? Can you think of a TV/book character who is deaf, or blind, or in a wheelchair, or who has a skin colour different to you, or is from different country to where you live, or is a different religion to you, or uses a hearing aid, or wears glasses, or uses a walking stick, or speaks with a stammer, or is autistic, or is from a family with one parent, or from a family with two mums or two dads? Do you think TV programmes and books should have a diverse range of actors and characters? Why?

6 :: On the back cover of the book you can read the blurb. Imagine it's your job to write the blurb for El Deafo: what would you write? How important is the blurb? What's it for?

7 :: If you could have a super phonic ear that let you listen in to anyone's conversation, who would you want to listen in to?

8 :: If you could pick a different super power to have, what would you pick?

9 :: How much do you care what other people think of you? Is it good to care? Is it bad to care?

10 :: If you were/are deaf, would you rather go to a school with only other children who are deaf, like Cece does in chapter three when she first starts school, or to a mixed school like Cece does later in the book?

11 :: Read 'A note from the author' at the end of the book. Can you imagine what it might be like to be deaf? What would be different for you?

12 :: If you were deaf, would you want to describe yourself as a person who is deaf, a deaf person, or a Deaf person. If you are deaf, which one do you prefer to use to describe yourself? Do you think these little, subtle differences in our language are important? Why? Why not? Who do you think should get to decide on the phrase to use?