

What Happened to Rachel Riley?

Questions for *during reading*:

Chapters 1 – 5

1. What topic would you chose for an “un-essay”? What are the pros/cons of this kind of assignment? Would you enjoy this kind of assignment?
2. On page 24 – Anna is describing “that girl who...” think about the kids you go to school with. Are people categorized this way?
3. On pages 45 & 46 Anna describes the tables kids sit at. Do you see this at your school? Why do you think this happens? What do you think should be done about this, if anything?
4. On page 58 Anna says, “Popular kids can get away with that stuff”. What does she mean? Do you think that’s true? Are there some kids who “get away with stuff”?
5. On page 73 Anna is telling her grandmother (Babcia) about what it’s like to be an eighth-grade girl. Do you agree?
6. On page 96 Anna says she cares too much. Can someone care too much? How does impact the friendships she has?
7. Anna’s mom wants Anna to “fit in”. What does this mean? What would you say to Anna’s mom?

Chapters 6- 10

1. Anna is very nervous going to Bee’s birthday party. What advice would you give her?
2. Bee and her friends talked about how “dumb” their parents were. Anna said it wasn’t cool to like your parents. Is that true in your group of friends? Anna doesn’t say anything because she doesn’t really agree. What do you do in situations like this?
3. Make a prediction – what is *the game*?
4. The character, Jordan, is “always nice to everyone”. She tries to make people feel comfortable and happy. Are there really people like this? Do you know anyone like Jordan?
5. Do you think Anna’s mom is supportive of Anna? Give evidence to support your answer.
6. How does Anna’s relationship with her Babcia help Anna survive eighth grade? Do you have anyone that helps you survive school? How do they help? What do they do?
7. Nik tells Anna what is happening to the girls is harassment (pg 167). What do you think, is this harassment? Why?
8. What responsibility do bystanders have in these situations? Have you ever seen something you knew was wrong? How did you respond?
9. Why didn’t Anna say anything?

Chapters 11-15

1. On page 194 Anna says, “I guess local figures can be world changers too, even if they’re not big or well known.” Do you know any local figures who you would consider world changers? How can you be a world changer?

2. Anna and Rachel don't think the teachers will help in this situation. Have you ever experienced a time when you went to a teacher with a problem, and you didn't think your concern was heard or addressed? Describe the situation. What did you do?
3. On page 211 Anna is telling Babcia she feels unsure of herself. Have you ever felt like this? If so, what do you do during these times? [What would you tell Anna?
4. On page 212, Anna receives an email from the Global Leaders. What do you think of their response? What would you say back?
5. On page 215 Anna says, "It's easier to care about people you don't actually know." Do you agree? Have you seen evidence of this?
6. Why does the author include information about Edgar Allan Poe, Charles Dickens and the Bible? What is she trying to show?
7. Compare and contrast how Nik handles Bronson and how Anna handles "the boys".
8. Make a prediction at the end of chapter 13. Who is Rachel Riley covering for?
9. What do you think about what happened at the Winter Ball? Think about what Rachel did and what Anna did. Was it "right" thing to do? Why?
10. Reread pages 268 and 269, what would you say to Anna? Why do you think only being "worth two points" hurt almost as much as the snapped bra strap?

Chapters 16-20

1. On page 272, Cody asks Rachel if it's bad for boys to notice what girls look like. How would you respond to this question?
2. After hearing about all that really happened, Anna tells Rachel she's a good friend (pg. 300). Do you agree? Why?
3. On page 304, Anna calls Rachel brave. Do you agree? Why?
4. "It's just a game", "it's just a joke", "this kind of stuff happens all the time", "that's what boys do", these are all responses various characters use to justify their behavior. What would you say to someone who used one of these phrases?
5. How does Babcia's experience growing up under communism in Poland impact Anna?
6. Do you think the behavior of the boys and the girls changed in the end? If you were going to write the next chapter what would happen?
7. Do you think the author captured what life is really like in middle school? What advice would you give her if she was going to write another middle school book?
8. Find a quote in the book you find especially powerful. Why did you choose this quote?

Grade Level Questions for *after reading*:

Sixth Grade:

1. Reread the email on pages 16 and 17. What is the tone of this email? Which specific words and phrases contribute to the tone of this email? *RL6.4*
2. On page 23, Mom asks, "Do you really want to tick kids off, anyway?". What does tick kids off mean? Why do you suppose the author used this phrase? *RL6.4*
3. How would you describe Rachel? Chose two quotes from the book to support your thinking. How are you like/unlike Rachel? *RL6.1*

4. Page 101 includes an email that Anna wrote to her *babcia*. The author didn't include *Babcia's* email. Based on what Anna is saying, what can we infer *Babcia* wrote to Anna? *RL6.1*
5. What is the author's purpose for including the emails to *Babcia*? How does the use of these emails contribute to the character development of Anna? *RL6.6*
6. What is a theme of this story? How do the actions of the characters contribute to this theme? *RL6.2*
7. How does Bee react to Rachel finding the photo at her birthday party? How does Anna feel after this? What do her actions after this event tell us about Anna? *RL6.3*

Seventh Grade:

1. On page 22, Mom says, "A middle school caste system...". What is a caste system? Why do you think the author chose to use this phrase? What does this phrase tell us about how Mom feels about the middle school groups? *RL7.4*
2. On page 12 Anna says, "I'm interested in a lot of stuff about the world, but it all just felt too big." What does Anna mean? *RL7.4*
3. How does Cody change throughout the story? Use evidence from the text to support your thinking. *RL7.1*
4. How would you describe the principal? What can we infer about her? Use two details to support your thinking. *RL7.1*
5. What is the author's purpose of including the character Cooper and the babysitting scene? *RL7.6*
6. What is one theme of this story? What are the major events that contribute to this theme? *RL7.2*
7. How does the dialogue between Rachel, Nik and Mom on pages 285 and 286 affect the plot? *RL7.3*
8. How does the fact that Rachel moved to Wisconsin from Chicago impact how Rachel feels and acts? *RL7.3*

Eighth Grade:

1. On pages 190 and 191, how does the author's repeated use of the word "take/took" impact the tone of the text. Summarize Anna's main idea/message on these two pages. *RL8.4, RL8.2*
2. On page 23, Dad says, "ostracization by society." What does ostracization mean? How does the use of this word impact Dad's statement? *RL8.4*
3. How does the use of the repeated phrase, "peace begins with us" impact your thinking about the principal? Use two details from the story to infer some things about the principal. *RL8.1 RL8.4*
4. How does Jordan change throughout the story? Use specific evidence and quotes from the text to support your response. *RL8.1*
5. What can we conclude about Cody's relationship with his friends that are boys? Use two details from the book that support your answer. *RL8.1*
6. Reread pages 272 and 273. Describe two ways the author creates tension between Anna and Cody. *RL8.6*

7. What is one theme of this story? Write a summary of the story focusing on the conflict of the story and how it is resolved. *RL8.2*
8. Reread pages 282 and 283. Focus on the sections that describe what Trevor did to Anna and how she responded. What does this suggest about Anna? *RL8.3*
9. In the end Rachel finds out that Cody knew it was Jordan who started the fire and that he was trying to help. She says, "It doesn't work like that. Actions don't just cancel each other out." How does this statement impact the ending of this story? *RL8.3*