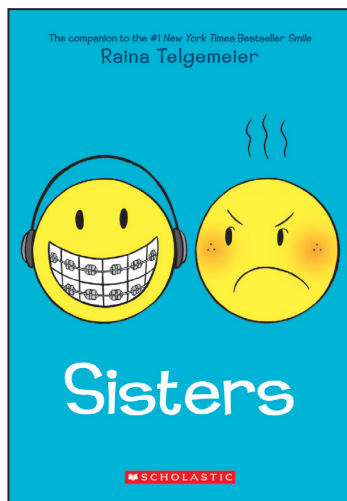




Discussion Questions for *Drama* by Raina Telgemeier

1. Callie is passionate about set design and researches old movies to inspire her and to learn. What topics do you love learning about? How can you learn more about those topics?
2. When Callie and her friends exit the costume room wearing fun hats, Greg looks at them strangely and quickly walks away. Liz reassures Callie by saying, "We're the cool ones. *He's* the dork." What do you think Liz meant by that? Do you agree?
3. Callie says that her new life began when she joined the stage crew. What activities at school or outside of school do you enjoy? Is there a club, sport, or musical instrument that you would like to try?
4. Callie "auditions" even though she knows her singing voice isn't very good. Why do you think she does this? Which character do you relate to more: Callie or Jesse?
5. Why do some of the kids dislike Bonnie? Discuss some of the things she does and some of the things she says that aren't nice.
6. Callie gets angry because Jesse ditches her at the dance, and Liz gets angry because Callie leaves her at the dance. Do you think Callie and Liz have a right to be mad? Why? How would you feel?
7. Greg asks Callie to be his girlfriend, but she doesn't accept, even though she used to have a big crush on him. Does this surprise you? Why do you think she said no? Do you think she does the right thing?
8. Jesse gives Callie mixed signals about his feelings toward her. What signals make her think he likes her as a girlfriend? What signals make her think he only likes her as a friend?
9. Jesse is a great singer but is very shy about performing in front of others. Do you have a talent that you keep to yourself? Or do you know someone who does? What can you or your friend do to feel more comfortable about sharing your talent with others?
10. Why do you think Callie is chosen to be the stage manager for the next school year? Use examples from the book to explain.



Discussion Questions for *Sisters* by Raina Telgemeier

Raina can't wait to be a big sister. But once Amara is born, the two girls have trouble getting along. Their relationship doesn't improve much over the years, but when they go on a family road trip, they realize they must figure out how to get along. They are sisters, after all.

1. Raina wants a sister so badly, but once Amara is born, she is different than Raina expected. Discuss a time something you wanted didn't turn out the way you thought it would.
2. Do you think most siblings have strong relationships? Why or why not?
3. Amara and Raina have differences and similarities. List some differences and similarities that you have with one of your siblings or good friends. What are the pros and cons of these differences and similarities in your relationship?
4. At the family reunion, Raina feels too young to be with her older cousin and too old to be with her sister. Explain a time you felt as if you didn't belong and how you handled the situation.
5. Once Raina starts to be nice to her sister, Amara refuses the colored pencils she had asked to borrow. How do you think Amara feels? How do you think Raina feels?
6. Amara draws spirit animals for members of her family. Draw a spirit animal for each of your family members and discuss why you chose that animal.
7. At first Mango causes tension between the girls, but the snake ends up bringing them closer together. How do they bond over the snake?
8. Look at pages 194 to 196. What change do you see in Raina and Amara's relationship?
9. What could you do to strengthen a relationship with a sibling, cousin, or friend?
10. Have you ever taken a long car ride? Describe your experience and what you did to keep from getting bored.

Check the Mother-Daughter Book Club
archive for discussion starters for
Raina Telgemeier's books *Smile* and *Drama*.



Discussion Questions for *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier

1. Raina's accident changes many things in her life and teaches her about the meaning of true friendship. What lessons about friendship does she learn?
2. Art is one of Raina's favorite activities and usually keeps her busy when she is worried about something. Which activities help you clear your mind?
3. Why do you think that Raina would want to try out for the basketball team?
4. If someone embarrassed you in front of a friend, what would you do? Would you react as Raina did when her skirt was pulled down?
5. Raina believes that her friends say mean things to her to make themselves feel better. Do you think she is right? Why or why not?
6. Raina is disappointed by how her teeth look after her braces are removed. How do Raina's new friends react? How would her old friends have reacted?
7. Raina allows her feelings about her appearance to affect how she feels on the inside. Have you ever had similar feelings? What did you do to feel better?
8. Raina finds that the more she focuses on her interests, the more she likes herself. Why do you think she feels this way?
9. Raina realizes that people see her differently once she likes herself. Why do you think they do?
10. Raina's accident leads to a very difficult time in her life. Do her friends help her situation or do they make it worse?