

Dyamonde Daniel Discussion Guide

Characters

- Dyamonde – 3rd grade girl, super smart, looking for a new best friend
- Mrs. Cordell – Dyamonde's teacher
- Free – aka “Rude Boy”, the new boy in Dyamonde’s class
- The Three T’s - Tanya, Tylisha, Tameeka, nice girls who Dyamonde sits with at lunch

Opener Questions

- Which do you like better – Math, or English/writing?
- Do you like Saturdays? Why/What do you normally do?

Discussion Questions

- Dyamonde is super smart, but her mom tells her to keep it a secret. Why do you think that it is okay for her mom to let out the secret but not Dyamonde? P.2
- Why does Dyamonde already know that she doesn’t want anything to do with Free when they welcome him to the class? Do you think she’s being fair? P.5
- Why do you think Free tells Dyamonde to leave him alone when she invites him to sit with her at lunch? How would you feel if someone turned down your invitation? P.6
- Dyamonde is feeling a bit lonely when she arrives home for the weekend. Have you ever felt lonely? What are some of the things you did to cheer yourself up? P. 20
- Why do you think Mrs. Cordell suggests that Dyamonde ask Free why he’s mad all the time? Why does Dyamonde think that’s a crazy idea? P.32
- What kind of person is Dyamonde? How do you know (what does she do or say that give clues about what kind of person she is)?
- Dyamonde and Free have both recently moved to the neighborhood, but they handle being new very differently. How do they each deal with their situations?
- Have you ever been new to a town or school? How did you feel about it? What did you do?
- What changes so that Dyamonde and Free become friends? What’s the turning point? P.45
- Dyamonde and Free find that they really have a lot in common. Has there ever been a time when you thought you knew a person, but really didn’t know them at all? What are some of the things or qualities that changed what you thought you knew about that individual? P.61

Alvin Ho Discussion Guide

Characters

- Alvin Ho – 2nd grade boy, scared of everything (school, heights, the dark, etc.)
- Calvin – Alvin's older brother (4th grade) who knows everything
- Anibelly – Alvin's younger sister who always messes with his things
- Flea (aka Sophie) - Alvin's desk buddy, a girl, has a cool eye patch
- Pinky – the biggest kid in Alvin's class, leader of the gang
- Jules – a kid in Alvin's class who gets chickenpox
- GungGung – Alvin's grandpa who sometimes watches them after school, loves baseball

Opener Questions

- What is something you are afraid of?
- Are you more talkative and outgoing, or more quiet and shy?

Discussion Questions

- What would you like to do all day if there were no school? P.2
- What do you think it would be like to be “afraid of everything” like Alvin? How does your body feel when you are afraid (e.g.- stomach hurts, sweaty, tired)? What would it be like if you felt like that ALL the time? P.6
- What items would you include in your own Personal Disaster Kit? P.8-9
- How do you think Alvin feels when his brother says that he is weird? Is it a bad thing to be weird? P. 13
- Do you have any ideas about how Alvin could make friends without talking? P.18
- Alvin says that, “everything is always better after” crying. Do you feel better after crying? Why? P.25
- Why did Flea write a book about Alvin? P.39-41
- Why do you think Alvin tells Flea that she is stupid and weird, even though he secretly thinks her eye patch is cool? P.42-44
- Have you ever lost or damaged something that didn't belong to you? How did you feel? How did the other person react? P.92
- Why is Alvin afraid of Miss Emily? Has there ever been a person you were afraid of that turned out to be nice? What made you change your mind about them? P.100-110
- Why did Alvin's therapist think it was wonderful when he cursed? How/why did her attitude change? P.118

- Why do you think Alvin's dad doesn't punish him for breaking his Johnny Astro, or for cursing his therapist? P.122
- Why do you think Pinky tells Alvin to do things before they can be friends? Is he a good friend for Alvin? P.142
- Why is it important when Alvin tells Pinky he wants his baseball cards back? P.154
- Do you think Flea is a good friend for Alvin? Why? P.156-162