

Discussion Guide: *Name Tags and Other Sixth-Grade Disasters*

1. Lizbeth believes, “Eliminating Claire would solve my problems and give me my old life back.” Without Claire around, what do you think would change for Lizbeth? What would stay the same?
2. Compare the pod system at Lizbeth’s new school to the classroom setup and friend groups at your school. How are they similar and different?
3. What do you think Claire means when she tells Lizbeth, “We are all part of each other’s stories?”
4. Why is SuperChicken so important to Tess and Joseph?
5. Paul says that his dad is the strongest person he knows, “and he can’t even stand up.” Who is someone you know who you consider strong? How do they show that strength?
6. How does Joseph defend himself against the bullies? How is this different from having a physical fight with them? What does it show about Joseph?
7. Why do you think Sydney treats Lizbeth the way she does? Do you think she’ll act differently after the events of the novel? Why or why not?
8. What does Lizbeth discover about herself as she creates her self-portrait?
9. At the talent show, why are people so eager to help remove the insulting name tags from Lizbeth’s self-portrait?
10. Joseph says, “Believing the worst about ourselves and each other—that’s our real enemy.” Think of an example of this happening in the book. What’s an example of the opposite happening—when someone believes the best of people and it works out well?