

DEX – CLASSROOM DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction:

We're going to share ideas, experiences, and different parts of a book called DEX. DEX is about a smart kid who loves to cook. He loves to cook so much that he even runs his own lunch business right from his house! But you'll get to know more about his story later.

First, I'm going to start by asking a pretty simple question:

Do you like to eat? What do you like to eat?

What's the strangest thing you've ever eaten? Would you eat it again?

What's the weirdest thing you want to eat, but haven't tried yet?

What's the most bizarre thing you've ever made? Was it on purpose?

Do you cook? Who taught you?

Do you remember the first thing you ever made?

Was it good?

What do you like to make?

What would you like to learn how to make?

Who in your house cooks? Is she or he a good cook?

Do you watch cooking shows? What are your favorites? Why?

DISCUSSION 1: READ P.75-77 Chapter 10 up until "it gets windy"

Dex isn't happy with the way he looks. He wants big muscles so Sarah, who seems to like boys who are into sports, will like him. He thinks the faster he can make money the more quickly he can buy a home gym and start working out so he can look more like the kind of boys he thinks Sarah likes. Is anyone here perfect?

Would you change anything about the way you look? Why?

Do you think we see ourselves the way others see us?

Would you change the way you look for someone else?

Should people change the way they look to get someone to like them?

Are you inclined to be friends with those who do or who don't look like you -or it doesn't matter?

Would you choose not to be friends with someone because of the way he or she looked?

Do people who seem like opposites sometimes like each other? Should people be friends with lots of different people?

Do we learn about the world by having different kinds of people in our lives?

Do people tend to judge a book by its cover? Is that a good or bad idea?

DISCUSSION 3: READ P. 82-84 Chapter 11 up until "could be questioned."

In this part of DEX we're going to read, Dex and his interesting friends: Liza, his friend since they were babies, Kyle, who has a strange burping problem, Jordy who speaks in his own fun, cool language, and Sarah, the girl he thinks is really pretty, are all in the school cafeteria at lunchtime:

Who do you sit with at lunch?

Do you sit with the same people all the time?

Would you encourage someone new to sit with you and your friends?

How many people sit at your table?

What are some of your favorite things to eat at lunch?

Do you ever share your food?

What do you talk about at lunchtime?

Do you have a habit, like Kyle, that annoys your friends?

Do you know someone else that has a bad habit? What do you do about it?

DISCUSSION 4: READ P. 96-98 Chapter 12 start at “See, Dex” until “Hunter broke up with me.”

The next part we’re going to read is when Dex is at his friend Sarah’s Bat-Mitzvah. Dex likes Sarah a lot, but she already has a boyfriend. Dex’s sister, Alicia, is there too as the videographer recording the party. Who knows what a bat-mitzvah is?

Do you have an older brother or sister? If not, do you have a friend who is like a brother or sister?

How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Do you know what a sibling is? A sibling is a brother or sister.

Do you get along with your siblings? Are you close?

Are they bossy? Helpful? Are you? Can you count on your siblings to be there for you?

Would you give up something you want for yourself in order to help someone you care about?

DISCUSSION 5: READ P.114-115 Chapter 14 start with (Dex) popped his head into...” end with “lose the restaurant.”

In this next part, Dex had been in the car with his parents, Vince and Marla. They drop him off at home and he is anxious to share exciting news with his sister and grandmother.

What’s something you would be excited about sharing with your family and friends?

Do you think about how you would like people to react to your news before you tell them?

What do you do if you don’t get the reaction you were hoping for?

What do you do when you have a hard problem to solve?

Do you try to solve problems by yourself or do you like to ask for help? Who do you ask?

Dex is not just a story about a kid who's good at cooking; it's also a story about the importance of being good to your family and friends.

Do you like spending time with your family? What are some of your favorite things to do together?

Do you have interests that neither your friends nor family have? Do you try to share your interests with them?

Do you think it's important to have a lot of friends or a few close friends? Do you have good friends? What do you look for in a friend? How are you a good friend? Can you have too many friends?