



Discussion Questions for the Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo Series

Not only are Katie's adventures fun (and funny!), but they teach kids a lot about what it means to see the world through someone else's eyes. As a class, or in small groups, host a book club discussion about Katie's antics. Use the following discussion questions to guide your conversation or let students make up their own for a thought-provoking discussion.

- There is a common saying: "Be careful what you wish for. It could come true." Katie once wished to be anyone but herself and wound up turning into a hamster! Talk about wishes. Have you ever had a wish come true only to discover that it wasn't what you really wanted? If a genie were to give you three wishes now, what would they be? Be careful . . .
- Another well-known saying tells us never to judge another person's actions until we've "walked a mile in their shoes." What does this mean? Over the course of the series, Katie gets to walk in many people's shoes. She even gets to walk in a couple of animals' paws! How does Katie feel about this ability? How would you feel if you were Katie? List three people who you might wish to switcheroo with and state your reasons for choosing them. What do you think a day in the life of each of these people might be like? What might you learn from the experience?
- In *Friends for Never*, Katie hates the fact that she is in a different class from Suzanne and Jeremy. Talk with your own friends about whether they think kids can stay close friends if they are not in the same class or the same school. What happens when a good friend moves away? Can a friendship continue? Can people have two best friends, the way Katie does? Do you have different kinds of friends? Why are your friends special to you?
- When movie star Rosie Moran comes to Cherrydale in *Quiet on the Set!*, she stirs up a lot of jealous feelings, especially in Suzanne. Most of us feel jealous every now and then. Think about the times you've been jealous, either of someone famous or of someone you know. Why were you jealous? How did you get over your feelings of jealousy? Do you think anyone is ever jealous of you and your accomplishments?
- In *I Hate Rules!*, Katie (as Mr. Kane) announces over the PA system that there will be no more rules. Discuss the consequences of Katie's actions. Why do we have rules in school? In our families? In our communities? Which rules do you think are fair? Which do you think are unfair? What might happen if we didn't have as many rules in our lives?
- Like all children, Katie and her friends sometimes get into fights with one another or hurt one another's feelings. In fact, this happens a lot with Suzanne and Jeremy. Talk about the importance of apologizing. Why is it important to apologize? What was the hardest apology you ever had to make? Did saying you were sorry help things get better? How do you feel when someone apologizes to you?
- In *It's Snow Joke!*, Suzanne accuses Katie of being a chicken, and in *Camp Rules!*, Alicia calls Katie a goody-goody. Why do people call each other names? Why did George tease Katie and call her Katie Kazoo in *Anyone But Me*? How does it feel when someone calls you a name? How do you react when someone else is calling people names? Have you ever called someone else a name? Why? How did that make you feel?

