



El Deafo by Cece Bell

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does losing her hearing affect Cece socially? Mentally? Physically?
2. Cece lists 7 different things that make lip-reading difficult. How do each of these make it harder to read lips (pgs 31-32)? What are some examples of actions by the people around Cece that they thought were helpful but actually made it harder for her?
3. What are the pros & cons of the Phonic Ear? Overall, was the Phonic Ear something positive or negative for Cece? What is some evidence throughout the book to back up your answer?
4. Cece's first teacher, Miss Dorn, was compared to Snow White, and Laura was compared to Narnia's Snow Queen. How are they each like these characters? Who could you compare your teacher to? Why? What about your friends? Parents?
5. Mrs. Catawba, Cece's guidance counselor, shared the idea of "warm fuzzies" and how spreading kindness can make you and others feel good

all day. How can you use this same philosophy without making warm fuzzies? (pgs 223-224)

6. Have you ever felt like you were in a bubble of loneliness like Cece? (pgs 46-49) What did you do to pop your bubble?
7. Cece's first best friend Laura is pushy & sometimes mean. Cece fantasizes about standing up for herself or ending the friendship. She doesn't because being friends with Laura is better than being in her "bubble of loneliness." Do you agree with that?
8. Cece seems to be looking for the perfect friend. Is there any such thing? What do you think of her friendships with Laura, Ginny, & Martha?
9. All through the book, Cece has a hard time expressing herself. By the end of the book, she seems to find her voice. What has changed for her to help her get past her shyness?
10. How does Cece Bell use her illustrations in *El Deafo* to help tell her story? What would be different if the book had only text? Only illustrations?

Find additional copies of printable discussion questions here:

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