

Chester and the MAGIC 8 BALL

By Lynn Katz

Discussion Guide

Before you read:

1. Check out the illustration on the front cover. What do you notice? Make some predictions about the characters and story.
2. Read the blurb on the back cover. What questions do you have? What problems do you think Georgia might have after discovering her dog can predict the future?

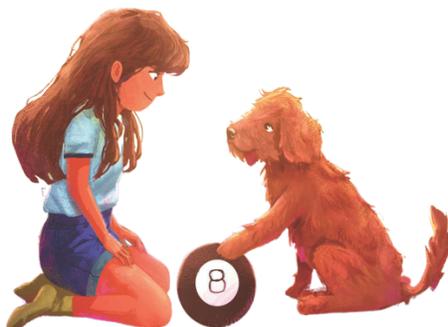
After you read:

1. Georgia's math teacher, Mr. Burnett, is different from her 5th-grade teacher, Mrs. Robins. Compare/contrast those two teachers. What are some of Mr. Burnett's traits and quirks that his students appreciate? Would you want a teacher like Mr. Burnett? Why or why not?
2. Why does Georgia have such a hard time forgiving Reagan? Have you ever struggled to forgive someone, or has someone struggled to forgive you? Why is it so difficult sometimes?
3. Agency in fiction means the ability of a character to make things happen, the power to fix a problem or change the events in the story. Agency is an important theme throughout the novel. Who has power in this story? How does that change throughout the book?
4. On p.156, Georgia notices a specific moment when nothing else matters. *"All the things in the world that have happened before this moment and all the things that will happen after this moment melt away like the whipped cream in my mug of hot chocolate."* That happens again at the end of the book, on p. 191: *"I hate to leave this perfect moment."* Have you ever felt that way? What brings on those feelings for Georgia? Describe your perfect moment.
5. Mr. Burnett believes his students should understand how math is important in their lives. How is learning about math helpful in your life?

Chester and the Magic 8 Ball is available on Amazon, IndieBound, and Barnes & Noble.

Visit LynnKatzAuthor.com to book a virtual or in-person visit with the author.

Enrichment Activities for Chester and the Magic 8 Ball



1. MATH: On p. 196, Mr. Burnett asks the students to figure out how much money could be collected for cancer research if every middle school in the country earned as much as their middle school. Try it!
2. BOOK TRAILER: Create a 2-minute book trailer to encourage others to read *Chester and the Magic 8 Ball*. Suggested Tools: iMovie, WeVideo, Powtoons EDU, Slides with Screencastify.
3. RUBRICS: Georgia's unhappy with the pass/fail system for Chester's pet therapy training program. Create a rubric to help your pet (parent, sibling, or teacher) improve their behavior. Reagan suggests making a joke-telling rubric on p. 179. What categories should be included? Try to create your own joke-telling rubric.
4. DRAWING: Draw a picture of a "perfect moment."
5. DESIGN A POSTER: On p. 68, Emma refers to a poster of an eagle in her dad's office. Georgia describes her own idea for a poster, this time with a scorpion. Create a poster using any animal, and include words of wisdom to inspire your friends and family.

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