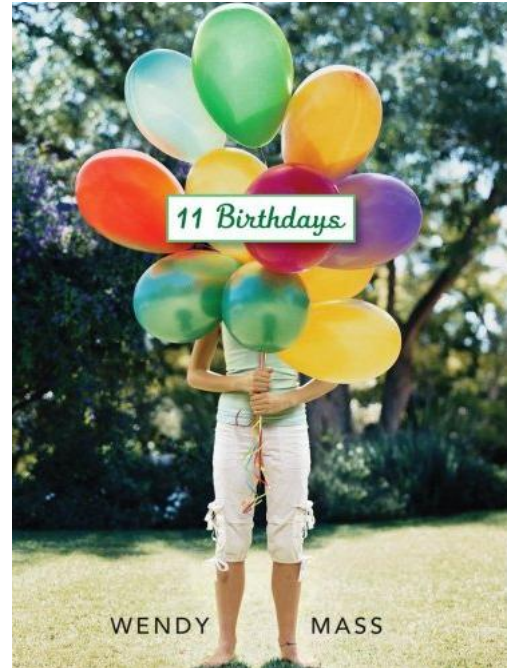


***11 Birthdays* by Wendy Mass (Scholastic, 2009)**

Amanda and Leo, born on the same day, have celebrated their birthdays together for 10 years, but after hearing an unkind remark made by Leo, Amanda decides to break with tradition and celebrate her 11th birthday without Leo. But in the days that follow Amanda and Leo find themselves caught in a time loop – they have to repeat their 11th birthdays over and over again – how can they break this mysterious time trap?



Discussion Questions

1. Would anyone like to describe the incident that caused Leo and Amanda to break up their friendship?
Leo says that he said what he did because he wanted to look cool in front of his friends?
Do you think Amanda made the right choice of not talking to Leo for an entire year?
2. One of the things that Leo says to his friends is that Amanda doesn't have very many friends. Do you think this is true?
3. On the first of her 11 Birthdays, Amanda tries out for the gymnastics team when she really wanted to try out for the marching band. Why did she try out for the gymnastics team instead?
4. Leo convinces Amanda to have a day with “no consequences for our actions.” After all says Leo we can do anything we want and the slate is wiped clean the next day. So Amanda and Leo let their true selves show on the day of no consequences.
How does Leo's poetry reading and Amanda's band try-out change them?
Are there actually consequences to their actions?
5. What does Amanda do different when she makes the gymnastics team?
Why on the last day does Amanda finally decide to try out for the marching band?
6. Toward the end of the book, Angelina says that “Nothing you ever do for anyone is for no reason.” By repeating their birthdays over and over again Amanda and Leo experience the same event in a number of different ways.
How has Amanda's relationship changed with her sister, with Stephanie?
What other things has she done in these 11 days that have changed her?
7. What evidence from the book hinted that Angelina was somehow involved in repeating their birthdays? Who do you think Angelina is?

8. Was the fact that they were doomed to repeat their 11th Birthdays until they broke the spell a curse or a blessing?

Several of the above questions were adapted from
Scholastic.com/motherdaughterbookclub

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