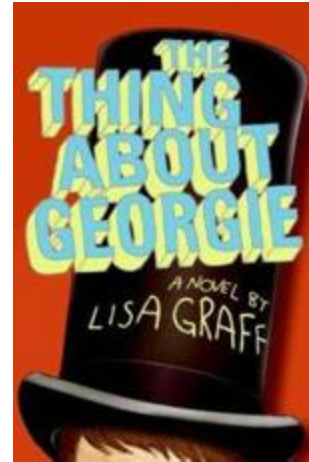


THE THING ABOUT GEORGIE by Lisa Graff

(HarperCollins, 2006)

Georgie, a dwarf, has many challenges. His mother is having a baby, he has a fight with his best friend, and now he's paired up with "Jeanie the Meany" for a school project. Can anything else go wrong?



Discussion Questions

1. So what does the title of the book refer to – what is “the thing” about Georgie?
2. Let's try some of the activities with our bodies that are suggested in the book:
Putting your arm over your head and touching the other ear
Tying our shoe laces with our knuckles
3. How has Georgie adapted to his height of 42 inches?
4. Why is he so worried about the new baby his mother is expecting?
Why does he call it baby Godzilla?
5. Georgie and Andy have been best friends since Georgie stood up for him against Jeanie the Meany in Kindergarten.
Why doesn't George want Russ to be part of their dog walking business?
Why did he have a difficult time saying I'm sorry to Andy after Georgie told him he didn't want Russ to be part of their dog walking business?
6. Jeannie the Meanie – What is your first reaction to her as a character?
P.98. Georgie learns that Jeanie has checked out a book, Little in a Big World.
Why do you think Jeanie checked out the book?
7. Why do you think Jeanie was so distracted when Georgie went to her house to finish their report? What did you learn about Jeanie at her house?
8. Why did Jeanie sign up George to be Abraham Lincoln in the play?
Georgie's mother says that Jeanie “sure seemed like a nice young lady.” Do you agree with her?
9. Why do you think Andy came over to Georgie's house? What did Georgie learn about how Andy felt?
P. 175 “He never once wondered what Andy might miss about him.”
When the boy's get together at Russ's house why does Georgie decide to stop hating Russ?
10. How did Jeanie rescued Georgie from being a disaster as Abraham Lincoln?
Why do you think she did this?
11. After Georgie finishes his part in the play, and removes his costume why does he feel “taller than normal?” P.204
On the ride home from the play –why does he ask his parents- “Would you love me more if I played the violin?”
12. Why do you think he put poems on the wall for the new baby?
When Georgie meets his baby sister for the first time - and she is a bit wrinkly – he

knows she is going to grow taller than him. Why do you think he now thinks he can handle it?

13. Did anyone guess who the narrator was?

Who do you think was the purpose of the narrator?

14. In an interview the author says that she wanted to write a book that was fun to read – do you think she accomplished this?

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