

## Literature Circle Questions

Use these questions and activities that follow to get more out of the experience of reading *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* by Sharon Creech.

1. List some of the things Rosie likes about Bailey.
2. Who is Pardo? How is he like Bailey?
3. What happened the first day Rosie had to go to school? Why does Bailey have to go to a different school?
4. Make a list of the non-English words and phrases that Granny Torrelli says and what they mean. If you see a word that's not directly explained, guess its meaning from context.
5. When Rosie and Bailey put on the play about the father and mother, Bailey gets very upset. Why? What do the things he says playing father tell you about his real father?
6. Both Rosie and Granny Torrelli tell stories involving a dog. Compare their two stories. Why did each of them get involved with a dog? How are their experiences similar? Different?
7. How is Bailey and Rosie's friendship different than one between two sighted people? Compare their friendship to one of your own.
8. After Bailey and Rosie stop fighting, Rosie thinks "something else is squeezing in between us." What is it? Do you think Bailey feels it too? Why or why not?
9. Why does Rosie keep the fact that she's learning Braille a secret? Why is Bailey mad at Rosie for learning Braille but happy to tutor Janine?
10. What makes Rosie become her "ice queen" self? Her "tiger" self? Her "sly fox" self? What emotions does she feel in each case? How does she behave? Do other characters have different selves?
11. If Bailey suddenly was able to see, how do you think his and Rosie's friendship would change? Imagine what it would be like for them to attend the same high school.
12. How does Granny Torrelli's story of her childhood mirror Bailey and Rosie's? Compare and contrast Granny's stories to the current situation. Why do you think Granny tells about the sick baby? Find evidence to support your answer.

13. Why do you think food makes it easier for characters to communicate and connect throughout the book? Find examples to support your answer and discuss whether you think these moments could have happened without food.
14. Early in the book, Rosie wants to help Bailey and do everything for him to keep him safe, but by the end she has changed her mind. What events influenced her opinion? Compare how her feelings change about Bailey at the beginning and at the end of the book.

*Note: The literature circle questions are keyed to Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge: 1-3; Comprehension: 4-6; Application: 7-8; Analysis: 9-10; Synthesis: 11; Evaluation: 12-14.*

### **Activities**

1. Pair up with a partner and take turns wearing a blindfold for a half an hour. Write about your experience, both as the "blind" person and as friend and guide to your partner. Discuss some of the things you found difficult without sight and what it was like to be the sighted partner.
2. Ask a parent or grandparent to prepare a family recipe with you. Make a recipe card for the dish, which lists the ingredients and how you and your family member prepared it together. Include a picture of the food, too.
3. Illustrate the pasta party that Granny Torrelli imagines in heaven and the pasta party that will take place after the book ends, with Rosie and Bailey and all the new neighbors.

### **Other Books by This Author**

*Absolutely Normal Chaos*, HarperCollins, 1995

*Bloomability*, HarperCollins, 1998

*Chasing Redbird*, HarperCollins, 1997

*Love That Dog*, HarperCollins, 2001

*Pleasing the Ghost*, HarperCollins, 1997

*Ruby Holler*, HarperCollins, 2002

*Walk Two Moons*, HarperCollins, 1994

*The Wanderer*, HarperCollins, 1999

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