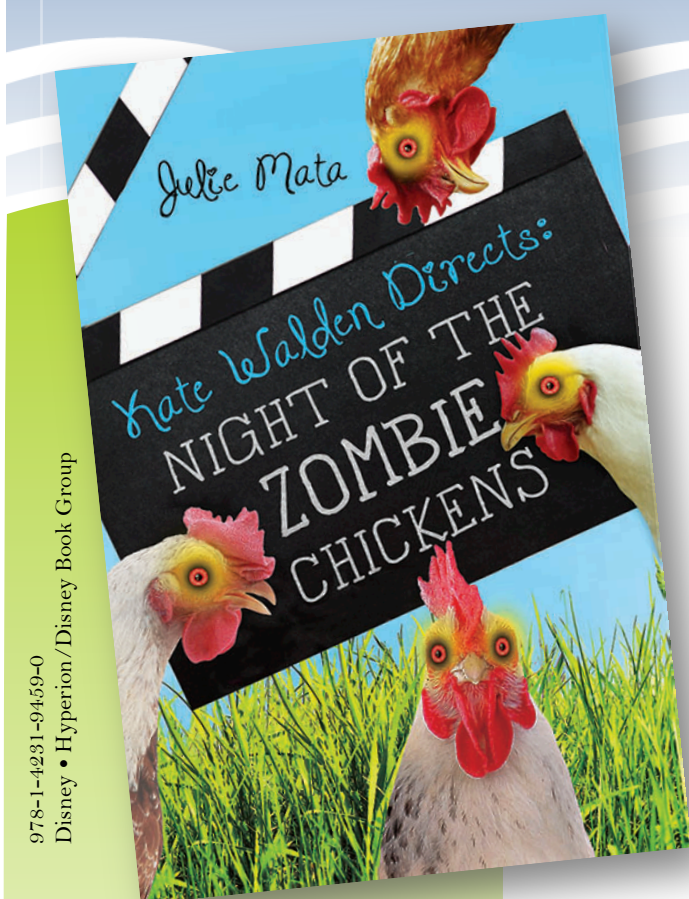


# BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE



KATE WALDEN DIRECTS:

## Night of the Zombie Chickens

BY JULIE MATA

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Kate Walden dreams of becoming a Hollywood director one day. But finishing her first movie, *Night of the Zombie Chickens*, feels more like a nightmare. Kate suspects her mother's chickens have hatched a diabolical plot to ruin both her social life and her movie. And when Kate's lead actress and best friend ditches her, *Night of the Zombie Chickens* seems doomed. Kate writes a revenge script to teach her former BFF a lesson, but she quickly learns that real life is way more complicated than movies, especially when it comes

"Debut author Mata has an unerring ear for tween dialogue... There is humor and a great deal of warmth in this clean read." *Booklist*

"A novel that is wickedly fun and gently thematic..." *Voya*

"Fans of Wendy Mass, Sharon Draper, and Rebecca Stead will appreciate this clever and quirky piece of realistic fiction." *School Library Journal*

# ACTIVITIES



## Pop Quiz!

For a fun icebreaker, give readers a pop quiz using the following questions (answers at bottom of page 3):



- 1) What is the dessert that Kate and her brother Derek fight about at the dinner table?
- 2) What is the name of the movie that Kate sees with Margaret and Doris?
- 3) There are several things that scare Kate when she goes down to the basement to search through storage bins. What is the final, scariest object she has to get past in order to reach the bins?
- 4) What is Kate searching for in the storage bins?
- 5) Kate's friend, Lizzy Chang, played a zombie in Kate's movie. What toy weapon was used to kill her character?
- 6) Which part does Doris play in the new ending to Kate's movie?
- 7) What is the name of the hen that Kate feels sorry for?
- 8) What product does Alyssa's mother sell as part of her job?
- 9) What is the destination of the surprise trip Kate's dad is planning for her mother?
- 10) What is the name of the movie theater where Kate shows her finished movie?

## Casting Call

Divide the group into two or three teams. Each team is now a casting agency. Have them write down a list of the actors they would cast to play Kate and her friends and family in the movie version of *Kate Walden Directs: Night of the Zombie Chickens*. Afterward, share their lists.

## Brainstorm Snack

In Chapter 14, Kate talks about her favorite snack for brainstorm sessions: "I'm convinced that pickles unleash the imagination. There's something about crunching down on that cold, green vinegary, cheesy deliciousness that makes the mouth and the brain salivate."

Offer a sample of Kate's choice of snack: pickles, Easy Cheese and soda! Does it make them feel more creative and inspired?

## Literary Snowballs (from LitLovers)

Divide into two teams on either side of the room. Hand everyone an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper on which to write a question from the book.

Crumple the sheets into "snowballs" and, at a signal, throw them across the room to the other team. The team who answers the most snowballs correctly wins.

Scoring:

2 points—to a team for each correct answer

1 point—to the other team for each incorrect answer.



# Discussion Questions



- 1) What did you like most about Kate, and what did you like least?
- 2) Why does Kate dislike her mother's chickens? Are the hens really to blame for her problems?
- 3) Why does Kate love to make movies so much?
- 4) What did you think of Kate's plan to get back at Alyssa? Does she overreact to Alyssa's friendship with Lydia? How would you have handled it?
- 5) Do you think Kate's decision to forgive Alyssa and remain friends was a good choice? Why did Alyssa decide to forgive Kate?
- 6) Lydia says she wants to be in Kate's movie but then she doesn't cooperate. Alyssa says she's sorry for laughing at Kate, but she keeps doing it. Kate wants to remain friends with Alyssa but she plays a mean trick and gets her in trouble. Why do people sometimes say one thing but do another? Have you ever done this? Has someone done it to you?
- 7) What does Kate learn about friendship in this story? What does she learn about herself?
- 8) Kate realizes she and her mother are both following their passions. Is it important to have something in your life that you're passionate about? What is yours?
- 9) How does Kate's relationship with her mother change through the course of the book?
- 10) Kate is afraid her parents' marriage may be in trouble. What do you think of her spying on her dad to find out the truth?
- 11) Margaret and Doris help Kate come up with a plan to get Alyssa out of trouble. How do they help her in other ways?
- 12) Kate plans to tell Mr. Cantrell that she ruined the wig but then changes her mind after the wig is lost in the storm. Should she still have told him?

## Answers to Pop Quiz questions:

1. Chocolate chip cookies
2. Poisoned Pie
3. The cistern
4. Baby monitor
5. Collapsible sword
6. Zombie Queen
7. Henrietta
8. Cosmetics
9. Bali
10. Roxy

