

(?) Companion Guide

These questions will help you think about the events in each chapter and choices that might make sense. Discuss, think about or write your answer.

Chapter 1: Mold and Homework – Not a Winning Combo!

1. Should Ben cheat off his friend?
2. What do you think will happen if he does cheat (in terms of the school and his friendship with Elias?)
3. What do you think the school's reaction might be if he cheats?
4. What might Ben's parent's say when they find out he cheats?
5. How might Ben feel if he cheats?
6. Can you think of other choices he might make instead of cheating?

Chapter 2: To Flake or Flake Out

1. How do you think Elias feels about Ben's cheating?
2. Do you think Elias made the right decision to not cover for Ben's actions? Why or why not?
3. Elias made a choice not to cover for Ben. What if Elias made a different choice? What might have happened?

Chapter 3: Distraction and Drama

1. How do you think Rebecca feels about Penelope's actions?
2. How do you think Ruby feels knowing that her good friend is teasing another friend?

3. Why won't Rebecca talk to Ruby?
4. Do you think Ruby is responsible for what happened? Could she have prevented this?
5. What could she say to Penelope? And what could she say to Rebecca?
6. Is saying something to or about someone on the computer the same or different as saying something to or about someone in person? Why or why not?
7. How do you think social media sites can help or hurt friends?
8. How would you help friends in this situation?

Chapter 4: Dressed to Impress

In this chapter, Penelope notices that Ruby's shirt is inside out. She makes a mean comment to Ruby. Why does she make that comment?

What do you think about Penelope's choice to send the text to Jason and his friends?

Why would she want to embarrass Rebecca?

How do you think Penelope feels now that she has made that choice of sending that text?

Chapter 5: Truth and Consequences

Ben gets the consequence of detention for his decision to cheat. Do you think he deserved that consequence?

Ben and Elias both liked Ruby. Has this ever happened to you? How would you feel?

What prompts Ben and Elias to make up?

Chapter 6: Don't Flake on a Friendship

What are things that Elias and Ben think are important to friendship?

Elias appears to have very set opinions about what is right or wrong in a friendship. Do you think there is ever an in-between? What are your opinions/thoughts about how friendships work?

Elias is disappointed in Ruby because she did not stand up for Rebecca, but he still decides to help Ruby in social studies. Why?

Why does Elias decide to forgive Ben? How would you have worked it out with your friends?

What did you think of how Ben defended Elias when Jason picked on him? How would you have defended or helped a friend in a similar situation?

What do you think Ben and Elias have learned about friendship? Is there anything else that they need to resolve?

Chapter 7: Left Out and Limo-less

Why does Ruby feel conflicted about her friendship with Penelope?

Do you think Ruby is afraid of Penelope? Why or why not?

When Ruby is thinking about Penelope, she says, "I feel bad for Penelope." Why does Ruby feel sorry for her?

Why do you think Rebecca refuses to accept Ruby's note?

Ruby's mom has a conversation with Ruby about her situation. If this happened to you, how would you apologize? What would a good friend do? How would you handle the situation if one of your friends hurt another friend?

Who are two adults you would talk to if you had a problem?

What is an advocate? What is an ally?

Chapter 8: Perfect Dress

How does Penelope feel about her friendship with Ruby?

How do you think she defines “being a good friend?”

Do you think Penelope feels conflicted about her decision to send the text?

Why does Penelope ask herself why she is “not more excited” for the dance?

Write a journal entry for Penelope that shows her true inner emotions, what will she say? What are her feelings?

Chapter 9: Friday Flake Frenzy

Ben remembers an embarrassing moment from when he was younger. Close your eyes and try to remember an embarrassing moment? How did you handle it? Looking back on it, is there anything you would have done differently?

Elias is worried about being bullied by Jason. He makes the comment that Penelope is a bully also. What do you think? Is there a difference between what Jason and Penelope are doing?

What is your definition of a bully?

Have you ever judged or misjudged someone on their behavior or another characteristic? Should we give people second chances?

During this chapter, Ruby shows that she is brave. Can you name ways she is brave? What are the pros and cons of her bravery? What/who might help you be brave in this situation?

Penelope decides to invite Ruby to the dance in the limo. She says that Ruby should be lucky to be her friend. What do you think Penelope means by this?

Penelope starts to have second thoughts about her behavior after Ruby confronts her. Why does she have these thoughts now?

Chapter 10: Flake Finale

What does Rebecca's father mean by *Act like you own the place*?

Rebecca talks about having a code word with her family. What does that mean? How might this idea be helpful to you?

Rebecca decides to go to the dance. What makes her change her mind?

Rebecca faces Jason at the dance. She has help because Ruby and Penelope step in. Do you think you could stand up for a friend in a stressful situation? Do you think you can stand up for yourself in a stressful situation? What would help you do that?

At the end, Rebecca says it will take a while for her to learn to trust Penelope again. What would help you trust someone or a friend who hurt you in the past? Do you think she should give Penelope a chance?

More information, resources and ideas for building friendship and decision making skills with children and young adolescents, is detailed on our website:
www.3docspress.com.