

1. At the beginning of the book, how did Dee feel about Samantha? Explain.
Dee didn't like her because Samantha stared at her and seemed to be stealing her friends.
2. a. Why did Dee and Pete spend so much time in the principal's office?
They were smart and bored at school. They sometimes misbehaved in class.

b. What did the school do to help students like Dee and Pete?
They started a new program called Advance for gifted students.
3. Do you think Ms. Hersh was a good teacher? Explain why you chose that answer.
Answers will vary.
4. a. Why do you think that Dee loved the Wizard of Oz book and movie so much?
Answers will vary.

b. Have you seen the movie? If so, what did you think of it?
Answers will vary.
5. What evidence supports the statement that Joey was creative? Give specific examples.
He pretended to travel through time in his "time machine," and he thought he saw a UFO. He thought a bottle cap was valuable.
6. a. Describe Andrew.
He teased Dee and the other girls in a mean way.

b. Should kids have told a teacher or principal about his behavior? Why or why not?
Answers will vary.

c. If you were in the situation like Dee was, would you tell on Andrew? Why or why not?
Answers will vary.
7. Something is ironic when what happens is the opposite of what we would expect. What was ironic about Dee staring at Samantha toward the end of the book?
Dee was angry at Samantha at the beginning of the book for staring at her!
8. a. What were Sue and Ronnie fighting about?
At a sleepover, Ronnie fell on Sue and gave her a bloody nose. When Ronnie was giving her presentation, Sue came into the room with a black eye, which made Ronnie upset and mess up her speech.

- b. Do you think either Sue or Ronnie were right to be angry? Explain.
Answers will vary.

9. Was Dee wrong when she volunteered her mother to tutor Samantha? Explain your reasoning.
Answers will vary.

10. Dee worried about a lot of things. What were some of the things Dee worried about?
She worried about her thin and unmanageable hair, getting good grades, her friendships, people outdoing her at things, kids teasing her, whether Advance would be too hard, and whether Samantha would pass.

11. a. How do you feel about how the Big Game ended?
Answers will vary.

- b. Why do you think the kids were so disappointed?
Answers will vary.

12. Some of the characters played pranks on others. What was your favorite prank, and why?
Answers will vary.

13. How did Dee change throughout the book?

- Dee became more confident in herself.
- She learned that someone's behavior isn't always what it seems to be.
- She learned that mistakes have consequences.
- She learned that when she made a mistake, it wasn't "the end of the world".
- She learned to take responsibility for her mistakes and make amends.
- She helped Samantha when Samantha really needed a friend.
- She learned the importance of forgiveness.

14. How did Samantha change throughout the book?

- Samantha learned that success was possible if she worked hard and had help.
- She was the new student in town who had few friends. By the end of the book, she became part of a group of friends called the Fantastic Four.
- She seemed to gain confidence in class and outside of class.

15. What scene in the book made you laugh or smile?
Answers will vary.

16. Who was your favorite character? Why did you choose that character?
Answers will vary.