

Teacher / Librarian Discussion Guide

The Amazing Julius: The Day the Leaves Would Not Obey

Purpose: These discussion questions are designed to encourage reading comprehension, critical thinking, observation, problem-solving, character analysis, and exploration of the themes and life lessons found within the story. Suggested responses are examples only. Students should be encouraged to support their ideas with evidence from the story.

1. What was your favorite part of Julius's adventure, and why did that part stand out to you?

Possible Discussion Points:

- Students may enjoy helping Mr. Calder rake leaves.
- Students may enjoy the battle against the wind.
- Students may enjoy building the tarp 'trap' for the leaves.
- Students may enjoy learning about composting and natural magic.
- Encourage students to explain why the scene felt exciting, meaningful, funny, or memorable.

2. If you had been with Julius during this adventure, what would you have done differently, and why?

Possible Discussion Points:

- Students may have created a different plan for the leaves.
- Students may have asked for help sooner.
- Students may have tried a different solution entirely.
- There are many valid responses if students can explain their reasoning.

3. What character traits did Julius show during this adventure, and which of those traits do you think are important in real life?

Possible Discussion Points:

- Observation – Julius paid attention to patterns in the leaves and wind.
- Compassion – Julius noticed Mr. Calder needed help.
- Perseverance – He kept trying after several failures.
- Teamwork – He worked alongside Mr. Calder.
- Curiosity – He wanted to understand how nature worked.
- Students should discuss which traits are valuable in their own lives.

4. After the leaves scattered again and again, Julius stopped trying to force the problem and began watching, listening, and looking for patterns. Why do you think understanding the problem was important before trying to solve it?

Possible Discussion Points:

- Understanding a problem often leads to better solutions.
- Observation can reveal things we miss when we rush.
- Good problem-solvers gather information first.
- Patience can be more effective than working harder.
- Students may connect this lesson to school, friendships, sports, or home situations.

5. After this adventure, what lessons do you think Julius learned, and what parts of the story make you believe that?

Possible Discussion Points:

- Teamwork can accomplish things that one person cannot.
- Observation is an important skill.
- Helping others can be rewarding.
- Nature has its own systems and lessons to teach us.
- Sometimes understanding a problem is more important than immediately trying to fix it.
- Students should support their answers with examples from the story.

Themes and Morals

- Teamwork helps solve difficult problems.
- Observation and patience are valuable skills.
- Helping others strengthens communities.
- Nature provides opportunities for learning.
- Understanding a problem often leads to better solutions than simply working harder.

Character Skills Demonstrated by Julius

- Observation
- Problem Solving
- Compassion
- Teamwork
- Perseverance
- Curiosity
- Critical Thinking
- Leadership

Real-Life Applications

- Helping neighbors and community members.
- Looking for patterns when solving problems.
- Working together toward a common goal.
- Learning from nature and the world around us.
- Using patience and observation before making decisions.