

Teacher / Librarian Discussion Guide

The Amazing Julius: The First Day of Everything

Purpose: These discussion questions are designed to encourage reading comprehension, critical thinking, empathy, friendship-building, 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 Julius meeting Theo.
- Students may enjoy the playground races and basketball game.
- Students may enjoy the discovery box activity.
- Students may enjoy seeing Julius turn school into an adventure.
- Encourage students to explain why the scene felt meaningful, exciting, funny, or relatable.

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

Possible Discussion Points:

- Students may have introduced themselves differently.
- Students may have joined different playground activities.
- Students may have helped Theo in another way.
- 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:

- Kindness – Julius welcomed Theo to a new school.
- Courage – Julius faced a new school year with confidence.
- Empathy – He noticed when Theo was nervous or discouraged.
- Generosity – Julius shared his lunch and helped Theo.
- Leadership – Julius encouraged Theo and offered study strategies.
- Students should discuss which traits are valuable in their own lives.

4. Theo was new, nervous, and unsure about fitting in. Julius chose to welcome him, include him, and help him throughout the first days of school. Why do you think those small acts of kindness made such a big difference for Theo?

Possible Discussion Points:

- Starting somewhere new can feel lonely or overwhelming.
- Simple acts of kindness can help people feel accepted.
- Friendship often begins with small actions.
- Helping others can build confidence and trust.
- Students may connect this lesson to welcoming new classmates, neighbors, or teammates.

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

Possible Discussion Points:

- School can be an adventure when we approach it with curiosity.
- Kindness can make a major difference in someone's life.
- Everyone has strengths and weaknesses.
- Friends can help each other grow and learn.
- Trying new things becomes easier with practice and encouragement.
- Students should support their answers with examples from the story.

Themes and Morals

- Kindness can change someone's experience.
- Friendship often begins with small acts of inclusion.
- Everyone has different strengths and challenges.
- Learning is an adventure.
- Encouragement helps people grow in confidence.

Character Skills Demonstrated by Julius

- Kindness
- Empathy
- Leadership
- Generosity
- Observation
- Encouragement
- Friendship Building
- Confidence

Real-Life Applications

- Welcoming a new student or teammate.
- Helping a friend who is struggling.
- Sharing knowledge and learning from others.
- Trying new activities despite feeling nervous.
- Looking for opportunities to include others.