

Teacher / Librarian Discussion Guide

The Amazing Julius: The Great Holiday Mystery

Purpose: These discussion questions are designed to encourage reading comprehension, critical thinking, teamwork, character analysis, problem-solving, 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 the detective investigation.
- Students may enjoy interviewing family members.
- Students may enjoy searching the basement, attic, mudroom, or yard.
- Students may enjoy the humorous moments between Julius and Noah.
- Students may enjoy discovering what really happened to the adventure stick.
- Encourage students to explain why the scene felt exciting, funny, surprising, or meaningful.

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

Possible Discussion Points:

- Students may have searched different locations first.
- Students may have questioned different family members.
- Students may have developed different theories.
- Students may have organized the investigation differently.
- 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:

- Determination – Julius did not give up searching for the adventure stick.
- Responsibility – He cared deeply about something important to him.
- Critical Thinking – Julius searched for clues and gathered information.
- Fairness – He investigated before blaming anyone.
- Teamwork – He worked closely with Noah throughout the mystery.
- Courage – He explored unfamiliar and sometimes spooky places.
- Students should discuss which traits are valuable in their own lives.

4. When Julius's adventure stick disappeared, he and Noah chose to search for clues and investigate the mystery instead of blaming someone right away. Why do you think it is important to gather facts before making assumptions about what happened?

Possible Discussion Points:

- Assumptions can lead to misunderstandings.
- Gathering facts helps people make fair decisions.
- Good detectives look for evidence before reaching conclusions.
- Working together often leads to better answers.
- Trust is strengthened when people avoid unfair accusations.
- Students may connect this lesson to friendships, school situations, family disagreements, or team activities.

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

Possible Discussion Points:

- It is important to gather facts before making judgments.
- Teamwork can help solve difficult problems.
- Family members can be valuable partners during challenges.
- Sometimes things are not what they first appear to be.
- Persistence helps us solve problems.
- Adventures can be found in everyday situations.
- Students should support their answers with examples from the story.

Themes and Morals

- Gathering facts is better than making assumptions.
- Teamwork can make difficult challenges easier.
- Family can work together to solve problems.
- Persistence helps overcome obstacles.
- Critical thinking is an important life skill.
- Everyday situations can become meaningful adventures.

Character Skills Demonstrated by Julius

- Determination
- Responsibility
- Critical Thinking
- Observation
- Teamwork
- Fairness
- Courage
- Problem Solving

Real-Life Applications

- Solving disagreements by gathering facts first.
- Working together to solve problems.
- Avoiding assumptions about other people.
- Taking responsibility for important belongings.
- Using patience and evidence when making decisions.