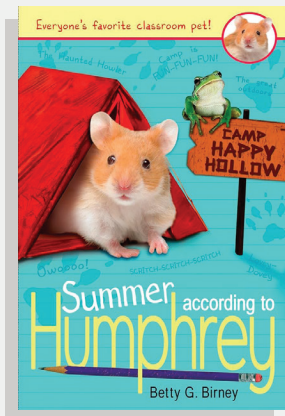


Book Club for Kids



Summer According to Humphrey

by Betty Birney

Recommended Ages:

7-12



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Summary: When Humphrey hears that school is ending, he panics. School ends? What's a classroom hamster to do if he's not in school? But as it turns out, there's something thrilling in store: going to Camp Happy Hollow with Ms. Mac and lots of the kids from Room 26! Camper Humphrey meets a friendly wild mouse, tracks down Og when he gets lost by the lake, and uses his wily charm to help kids adjust to cabin life and make new friends.

Discussion Questions: Spoiler alert! Some of the questions contain key elements of the plot. Do not read if you don't want to know what happens!

1. Why is Humphrey unhappy about summer vacation? Do you feel sad or happy when it's time for a break from school? What are some things you look forward to about not being in school? What are some of the things that you miss?
2. Why is Humphrey worried about going to the camp and being in the wild? What experiences does he have over the course of the story that change the way he feels? Have you ever felt worried about something and then had your feelings about it change?
3. Why do you think Gail looks so upset when she arrives at camp? How does she deal with her feelings? How does Humphrey help her to change the way she views camp?
4. Why do you think Brad acts the way he does? What are some possible reasons for why someone might have a bad attitude about things? How does Humphrey help Brad's attitude change? What might you do in a similar situation?
5. Sayeh is concerned about the way the campers are interacting. Why do you think they became so competitive? Can it be good to be competitive? When might it be a bad thing? What does Sayeh end up doing that allows her to have lots of fun with all her friends?
6. What are the ideas that the different teams have about how to win? What ends up working and what doesn't? What are some of the skills you have that would help a team?

Activities:

- Mrs. Brisbane writes report cards for Humphrey and Og for the end of school. If you were going to get a report card like the ones that the classroom pets received, what do you think it would say? What kind of report card would you write for your friends?
- Make a funny skit like the ones the campers put on and perform it! You can use the ones from the book, ones you might know from camp, or make up something new!

Adapted from Penguin.