

DORK diaries

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A DISCUSSION GUIDE



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Nikki's arch nemesis MacKenzie continues torturing her in this second Dork Diaries volume by calling her names, making fun of her clothes, and dissing her friends and artistic talent. Do you have an arch nemesis? What makes this person your ultimate rival? What would you do if you had lockers next to each other?
2. Nikki finds out that she won \$500 in the Avant-garde Art Contest. She had originally planned to use the money to buy a cell phone, but decided instead to save the money for art camp next summer. If you won \$500, what would you do with it?
3. Nikki admits that her major crush on Brandon has caused RCS (Roller Coaster Syndrome). What does this mean? Have you ever had this feeling when you are around someone you have a crush on? Does it impact your ability to talk to him or her?
4. Throughout the book, Nikki continually talks about how she is so unpopular, ranking herself lower on the WCD CCP Popularity Index Chart than the school janitor, school mascot, and head lunch lady. In fact, she calls her own diary the "Dork Diary," and often refers to herself as a dork throughout the book. However, Nikki has several best friends and a popular boy has a crush on her. How do you define popularity? Who determines who is popular at your school? Do you think how you view yourself impacts how others view you?
5. Nikki's mom always wanted to be a ballerina, so she signed up both her daughters for lessons, even though neither of them wanted to attend ballet classes. Have your parents ever forced you to do something you didn't want to do? How did you respond?
6. During MacKenzie's party, Jessica "accidentally" bumps Nikki's plate of fruit and chocolate, causing the entire plate of food to spill all over Nikki's new party dress in front of everyone. Out of embarrassment, Nikki leaves the party and doesn't even take the opportunity to talk to her crush Brandon, as she is waiting around outside for her dad to pick her up. Have you ever been embarrassed by someone else in front of your peers? How did you handle it? If you could go back and respond differently, would you? What would you do differently?
7. In response to her little sister's fairy phobia and constant pleas for a bathroom monitor in the middle of the night, Nikki comes up with a plan to banish the imaginary tooth fairy in Brianna's room for good using a homemade repellent made with water, vinegar, tuna fish oil, sardine oil, and garlic. What's the most unusual thing you have ever done to get your brother or sister to stop bothering you?
8. In Nikki's own words, she was trying to "do it ALL" on Halloween, including paint faces at the ballet class Halloween party, attend the Halloween dance with Chloe and Zoey dressed as a bag of trash, and attend the Halloween dance as Brandon's date, dressed as Shakespeare's Juliet. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you took on too much at one time? Were you successful? How would you do it differently if you had it to do over again?

ACTIVITIES

- 9.** In preparation for MacKenzie's party, Nikki goes shopping for a new party dress. Using illustrations, Nikki shows the different personas she could adopt for the party: "Wako Emo," "Drama Queen Mean," "Baggy Shabby Chic," "Raging Rebel Rocker," "Goth Girl Groovy," "Very Scary Vampy," "Silly Celebutant," and "Cos Girl Cutie." But then she decides that none of those styles reflect her true personality. Do any of these styles reflect your personality? If yes, which one and why? If not, how would you describe your personal style? Design your own party-glam outfit, with both an illustration and a description. Also, be sure and give your style a title, like Nikki did for each of her looks.
- 10.** After MacKenzie resigns as chairperson of the Halloween dance, Nikki and her friends take on the task of making sure the dance happens, in spite of MacKenzie's desertion. The problem is that they don't have a lot of time, all of MacKenzie's friends on the planning committee also resigned, and MacKenzie cancelled the venue, entertainment, decorations, and caterer. If you were in the same position as Nikki, how would you go about planning the dance? Come up with a budget for your party; pick a location then design a plan for food, drinks, decorations, and entertainment. Create a marketing and publicity plan for how you would let everyone know the dance was still happening; include designing a mock flyer for the event.
- 11.** The costume you choose for Halloween says a lot about your personality. Nikki goes as Juliet in a beautiful Shakespearean ball gown; Brandon chooses one of the Three Musketeers; Violet dresses like a clown; MacKenzie like a chic vampire; and Chloe and Zoey as bags of trash. What do each of these costumes say about each character? Design your ultimate Halloween costume. Explain, in writing, what you believe this costume says about you.
- 12.** Throughout this book, we get to read all about how Nikki feels about her little sister, her friends, the CCP (Cool, Cute, and Popular) group, MacKenzie, and even Brandon. But what we don't learn is how these people feel about Nikki and her wild schemes. Choose two of the following characters/situations and create a sample diary page for the character, as if it were taken directly from his or her personal diary:

Jessica—dress getting ruined in the chocolate fondue mishap at MacKenzie's birthday party

Brianna—watching Nikki use the tooth fairy repellent

Valerie—deejaying the Halloween dance

MacKenzie—attending the successful Halloween dance that she did NOT plan

Chloe & Zoey—finding out that Nikki didn't tell them about her date with Brandon for the dance

Brandon—wondering about Nikki's constant disappearance during the Halloween dance

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