

Ida B by Katherine Hannigan

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you think when you first read about Ida B's conversations with her tree friends? Did you change your mind after you read more of the story?
2. Why did Ida B make her heart change to one of stone and coldness? What do you think of that?
3. What would you say are the most important things Ida B learned during fourth grade?
4. Please compare how home-schooling and public school were alike and different for Ida B.
5. Would you please help us understand why it was important to Ida B, near the end of the story, to apologize to the trees and the brook?
6. If there was anything in the story that made you laugh, would you please tell us about it or read it to us? We would like to laugh with you!
7. After you read the first chapter, did you think Ida B was someone you might like to make friends with? Why or why not?
8. Ida B told us on page 9, "after I took a minute to give my patience and forbearance a chance to recover my mouth from the rudeness that was itching to jump out of it." What did she mean? Could you give us an example of how this would work?
9. What did you think the author did well in her writing? What would you like to see her improve?
10. Did anything in the story surprise you?
11. Pretend you are the editor and the author asked you about the way she ended the story. What would you tell her? Was it a good ending or how would you tell her to improve it?
12. On page 101, Ida B can tell that the classroom is a warm place, "a warm-feeling inside place." Would you please help us understand what she meant? Maybe you could describe such a place that you have been to.
13. On page 12, Ida B describes herself as a Superhero Deluxe. Please read the other titles she gives herself. If we gave ourselves superhero titles, what values would we be defenders of? What would be our foes?
14. How would you describe Ms. Washington's teaching style? What do you think about it?
15. Is there a character that you admire? Please tell us why you admire him/her.
16. What important lessons do you think Ida learned in this story?
17. Why do you think Ms. Washington asked Ida to help Ronnie learn his multiplication facts? Have you ever tried to teach someone something? Did you use a method like Ida B used with Ronnie?