

*The Stranger Next Door* by Peg Kehret

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever read a book told in part or completely by an animal character? What do you think about an animal (like Pete) telling the story?
2. What happened in the story that made you laugh?
3. Before you read the story, did you think you understood your pet's meows or barks? Did that change after reading Pete's comments?
4. The first time Alex told his mom about Duke, she suggested ignoring him. If you were the mom, what would you have told him to do?
5. How well did the author do expressing Pete's thoughts and behavior? Were you able to pretend that parts of the story were written by a cat?
6. Which character did you admire most and why?
7. Were there any descriptions that were so well-written that you could almost feel what a character was feeling?
8. If you were Alex's friend and saw what was happening in the cafeteria, what would you tell him to do about the school bullies?
9. Was there anything in the story that made you sad?
10. Did you admire any quick-thinking by a character?
11. Was the author trying to make a point or teach a lesson? If so, what was it?
12. Was this book a quick read? Why or why not?
13. Pretend you are the editor. Tell the author what changes she should make to improve the story.