Discussion Questions for
Upside-Down Magic by
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Nory, Elliott, Andres, and Bax are just four of the students in Dunwiddle Magic School’s Upside-Down Magic class. In their classroom, lessons are unconventional, students are unpredictable, and magic has a tendency to turn wonky at the worst possible moments. Because it’s always amazing, the trouble a little wonky magic can cause...

1. Why doesn’t Nory feel like she fits in with her family? Discuss ways that you are similar to and different from the members of your family.

2. Describe Nory’s first meeting with Pepper. Think of a time you had an awkward first meeting. How did the relationship work out?

3. The students in the Upside-Down Magic class all have wonky magic. Which magic do you think is the wonkiest? Which wonky magic would you want to have?

4. Part of developing Upside-Down Magic is learning to understand, not control, feelings. How could this advice be helpful to people without magic?

5. Ms. Starr says that unusual magic was valued in the past. Why do you think people’s opinions changed? Might their opinions change again? Explain.

6. Aunt Margo does not think Nory and Elliott should try to move out of the UDM class. She says, “Just be who you are, not who you think you should be.” Do you think that is good advice?

7. After Elliott does well on his test, he runs back to the Sparkies. Were you surprised he went back to kids who were mean to him? Why or why not?

8. How does the wonky magic of the UDM students save a fellow classmate?

9. Do you think Principal Gonzalez made the right decision about the class placement of Nory and Elliott? Why or why not?

10. How does Nory feel about her Upside-Down Magic in the beginning and the end of the book?