



Discussion Questions for *Friends for Life* by Andrew Norriss

When Jessica sits next to Francis on a bench during recess, he's surprised to learn that she isn't actually alive—she's a ghost. And she's surprised, too, because Francis is the first person who has been able to see her since she died.

Before long, Francis and Jessica are best friends, enjoying life more than they ever have. When they meet two more friends who can also see Jessica, the question arises: What is it that they have in common? And does it have something to do with Jessica being a ghost?

1. Francis, Andi, and Ronald all feel that there is something that makes them different. What are their individual differences that make them stand out? How do they feel about them?
2. Why are Francis and Andi both a bit envious of each other?
3. Francis mentions that Angela and Denise have the power to decide who people should speak to and who should be ignored. Why do you think others listen to them? Can anything be done to change people who try to influence others like this?
4. Why is Jessica stuck on Earth?
5. Francis thinks having Jessica as a friend helped him out of The Pit. How have your friends helped you in difficult times? Discuss.
6. The school took bullying very seriously after the incident with Lorna. How does your school react to bullying? What suggestions would you make to your school?
7. How do the members of the drama group feel about their individual differences? How is this different than the way Francis, Andi, and Roland feel about their differences?
8. How do Francis, Andi, and Roland change over the summer?
9. Both Roland and Francis come to the realization that they don't care what others think of them. What helped each of them come to this realization? Would you be able to ignore what others think of you?
10. Francis writes in his letters that life, "could appear so impossible at one moment, and so full of hope and possibilities the next." Do you think this is true? Explain.