

Discussion Questions for *Allie, First at Last* by Angela Cervantes

About the Book

Allie Velasco wants to be a winner, a trendsetter and trailblazer. No better feeling exists in the world than stepping to the top of a winner's podium and hoisting a trophy high in the air. At least, that's what Allie thinks . . . she's never actually won anything before. When a prestigious school contest is announced, Allie has the perfect opportunity to take first — at last. There's just one small snag . . . her biggest competition is also her ex-best friend, Sara. Can Allie finally take top prize and win back a friend, or is she destined to lose it all?

Discussion Questions

1. Explain why Allie wants to be a trailblazer.
2. Describe how you would have responded if someone unintentionally ruined your science fair project.
3. What character do you like most in the story? Why?
4. Allie is sad that she is no longer Sara's best friend and seems lost on how to repair their broken friendship. What advice would you give to Allie to help her win her friend back?
5. Compare/contrast the two characters you like best in the story, e.g., Allie/Sara, Victor/Allie, *Bisabuelo*/Adriana.
6. What does Great Gramps (*Bisabuelo*) mean when he tells Allie that "the real rewards in life don't fit on a trophy shelf"? What do you think those "real rewards" are?
7. Quote a passage from the book where Allie makes a choice that you agree with or don't agree with. Explain.
8. Allie is trying very hard to be the first student from Sendak Elementary to win the Trailblazer Contest, but her new buddy, Victor Garcia, is striving to be first at something else? What is it? And why is it so important to him?
9. Describe the turning point in this story. What makes Allie rethink her Trailblazer presentation?
10. Predict what could take place in a sequel to this book.