

## Literature Circle Questions

Use these questions and the activities that follow to get more out of the experience of reading *The Million Dollar Shot* by Dan Gutman.

1. List three things besides shooting a basketball that Eddie Ball can do to show he is “really good at throwing stuff at a target.”
2. When Eddie and Annie play HORSE, what does Annie do that astonishes Eddie? Where did she learn to do this?
3. At first Eddie doesn’t think the rules will allow him to enter the Finkles contest. What happens to change this?
4. Compare what Eddie likes to read with what Annie likes to read. Which do you think would be more helpful for entering the contest. Explain why.
5. What are some of the major differences between Finkles and Air Crunchies? Which would you rather eat and why?
6. Describe Mr. Finkle. What are some of the things he does that indicate whether he is a good or bad person?
7. Many people benefit from the free throw contest. Who are they? Describe what they will gain from Eddie’s win.
8. Imagine you are in Eddie’s place. Do you think you might consider taking Mr. Finkle’s bribe to lose the contest? Why or why not?
9. Ty and Johnny cause a lot of trouble for Eddie. Why do you think they do this? What makes them change their minds?
10. Explain why Eddie becomes angry after Mr. Stokely begins spending more time with his mother. Do you think he will always be angry about it?
11. At Madison Square Garden, Eddie begins feeling light-headed and dizzy just before the free throw contest. Why do you think this happens? What do you think happened to his Susan B. Anthony dollar? Explain your answer.
12. What do you think happens to the characters after the story ends? What might happen to Eddie and Annie? Eddie’s mother and Mr. Stokely? Mr. Finkle?
13. What would have happened to the characters if Eddie missed the free throw? Do you think there could still be a happy ending if Eddie didn’t win the contest?

14. As you were reading the book, did you think Eddie would win or lose the contest? Explain what made you think so, using details from the story.

15. Compare Mr. Stokely and Mr. Finkle. What makes them different or the same? What influence do each have on Eddie?

*Note: These questions are keyed to Bloom's Taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-3; Comprehension: 4-6; Application: 7-8; Analysis: 9-10; Synthesis: 11-13; Evaluation: 14-15*

### **Activities**

1. Invent your own imaginary snack food like Finkles or Air Crunchies and come up with an advertising campaign to sell your product. First, what sort of ingredients might you use? Second, write a slogan for your snack. Will your slogan be like a poem or something different? Third, draw or create an advertisement for your product and decide where the ad will appear. In magazines or newspapers? On billboards? As a TV or radio commercial? Why do you think your ad will be successful?

2. Not everyone is good at shooting baskets. What other skills could be involved in a contest for a million dollars? Create your own contest for Finkles with its own rules and prize. Do you think a character from the book other than Eddie might win your contest? Explain why.

3. When Eddie Ball names himself "Big Shot" of the new Air Crunchies company, he isn't sure what he's going to do. Think about what you would do if you were the Big Shot of a company. Form groups and decide what sort of company you will run. What does your company do or sell? Will it be big or small? Located in a big city, small city, or the country? Will your employees dress in business clothes or casual clothes? What about your company would make it a good place to work? Groups give presentations about their companies to the class. Then take a vote to see how many of the students would like to work for each company.

### **Other Books by This Author**

*Miss Daisy Is Crazy!* (HarperCollins, 2004)

*Mr. Klutz Is Nuts!* (HarperCollins, 2004)

*Mrs. Roopy Is Loopy!* (HarperCollins, 2004)

*The Million Dollar Kick* (Hyperion, 2001)

*Babe & Me* (HarperCollins, 2000)

*The Catcher Who Shocked The World* (Scholastic, 1997)

*The Green Monster in Left Field* (Scholastic, 1997)

*Honus & Me* (HarperCollins, 1997)

*The Pitcher Who Went Out of His Mind* (Scholastic, 1997)

*The Shortstop Who Knew Too Much* (Scholastic, 1997)

*The Kid Who Ran For President* (Scholastic, 1996)

**For a complete list of books by Dan Gutman, visit his Web site: [www.dangutman.com](http://www.dangutman.com)**