Literature Circle Questions

Use the questions and activities that follow to get more out of the experience of reading *School Story* by Andrew Clements.

1. What gave Natalie the idea to write a "school story" in the first place?

2. At first, Natalie and Zoe are going to get the story published by themselves. What events led up to Ms. Clayton being included in the plan?

3. Natalie and Zoe find out information about publishing. How do they each get their information? What do they each find out?

4. In the book, it is clear that Natalie and her mother take care of each other. What evidence is there in the story to show how each one cares for the other?

5. Natalie and Zoe go to the same school, but their lives are very different. Compare what you know about Zoe’s life to what you know about Natalie’s life.

6. Although Natalie’s father has died before the story begins, he plays an important role in the book. Based on evidence in the book, how would you describe how Natalie feels about her father?

7. Natalie and Zoe run into some obstacles trying to get Natalie's book published. What are three problems they encounter and what solutions do they find?

8. What do you think the result would be if Natalie and Zoe had gone to their parents with their plan in the first place?

9. Zoe plans to be Natalie’s literary agent. As a literary agent, she won’t get as much recognition as Natalie for being the author of the book. What motive is there for Zoe to want to be the agent?

10. What would have been different if Letha Springfield had been the editor of Natalie’s book? Why was it important that Natalie’s mother be the editor?

11. Zoe and Natalie have different opinions about what is lying and what is not lying. Based on what you read, do you think Natalie and Zoe lied? Why?

12. In the contract, Zoe will receive 15% of whatever Natalie makes. That means, for every dollar Natalie makes, Zoe will get fifteen cents. Why or why not does this seem fair?

*Note: The following questions are keyed to Bloom’s Taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-3; Comprehension: 4-6; Application: 7, 8; Analysis: 9; Synthesis: 10; Evaluation: 11, 12.*
Activities

1. The book talks about a lot of different careers: law, publishing, advertising, teaching, and writing. Interview someone who is involved in one of these careers. Share your interview with your class.

2. Natalie and Zoe have asked you to create a magazine ad for *The Cheater*. Using words and images, create your ad using cutouts from magazines, information from the computer, or your own artwork! Remember, you are trying to sell this book to other kids. Your ad should include the title of the book and the author’s name.