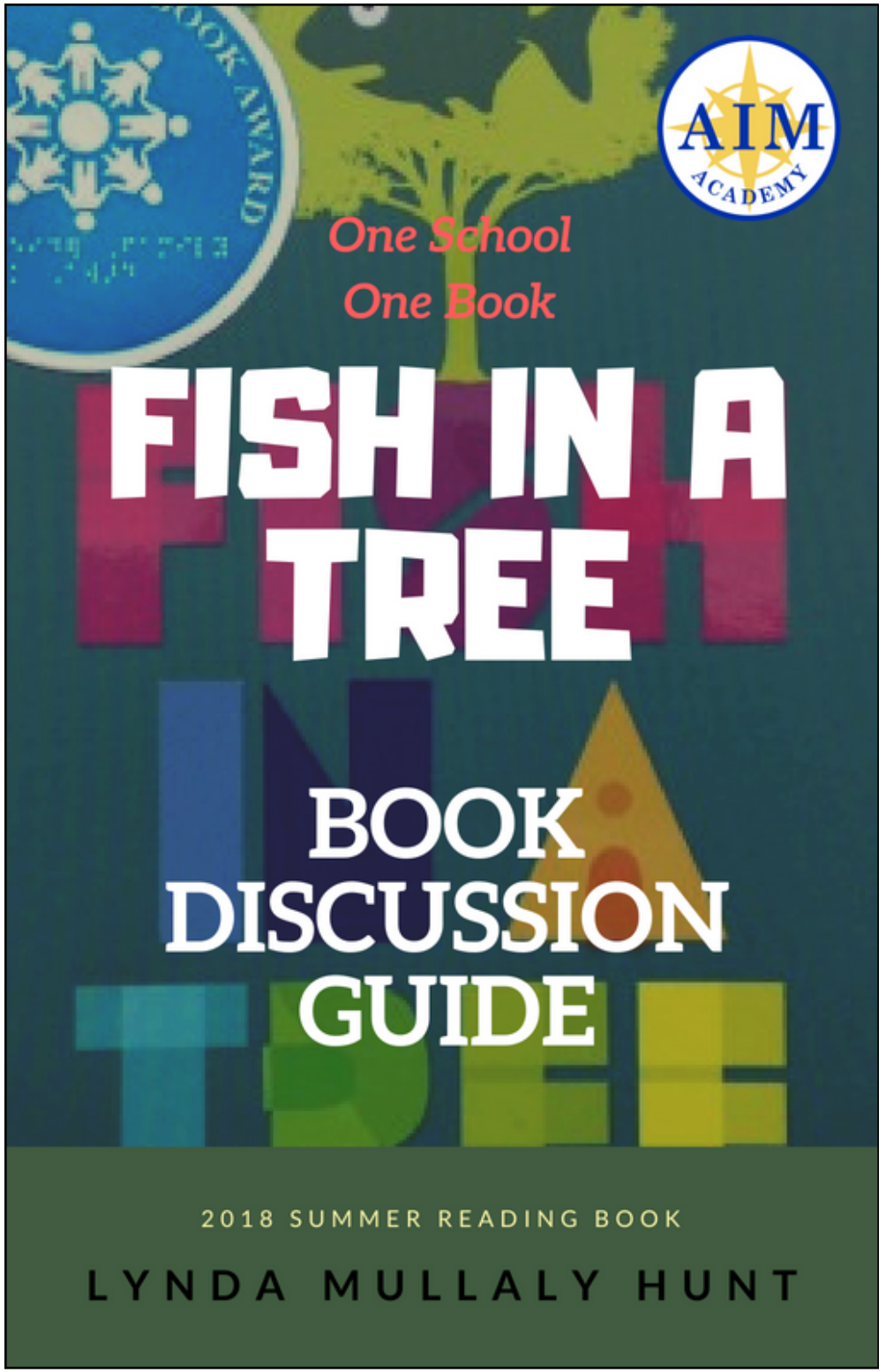

AIM
ACADEMY
One School
One Book
FISH IN A TREE
BOOK DISCUSSION GUIDE
2018 SUMMER READING BOOK
LYNDA MULLALY HUNT

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 1-3

A ON PAGE 9, DISCUSS THE ANALOGY, "I NEED ATTENTION LIKE A FISH NEEDS A SNORKEL" AND HOW IT RELATES TO HOW ALLY FEELS WHEN AT SCHOOL?

B WHY WAS ALLY IN TROUBLE FOR GIVING MRS. HALL A SYMPATHY CARD? EXPLAIN HOW IT HAPPENED AND WHY IT WAS A MISTAKE? (PAGE 10)

sketch space

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 1-3

C ON PAGE 11, ALLY SAYS, "I WISH I HAD MY SKETCHBOOK OF IMPOSSIBLE THINGS. IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M NOT A WASTE OF SPACE." IN THE SKETCHBOOK, ALLY DRAWS THE IMAGES SHE SEES IN HER MIND MOVIES. WHY DOES ALLY FEEL LIKE A WASTE OF SPACE? WHAT ARE ALLY'S STRENGTHS?

D ON PAGE 14, DISCUSS THE ANALOGY, "ME AVOIDING CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE LIKE THE RAIN AVOIDING THE SKY" WHAT DOES THIS MEAN AND HOW DOES IT RELATE TO ALLY'S EXPERIENCES IN SCHOOL?

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 4-6

A ALLY AND ALLY'S MOM BOTH LOVED THE BOOK ALICE IN WONDERLAND. ALLY DESCRIBES THE BOOK, "A BOOK ABOUT LIVING IN A WORLD WHERE NOTHING MAKES SENSE". IN YOUR WORLD, WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE TO YOU?

B GRANDPA AND DAD WOULD ASK TRAVIS AND ALLY IF THEY WERE HAVING A SILVER DOLLAR DAY OR A WOODEN NICKEL DAY. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TYPES OF DAYS? DESCRIBE A SILVER DOLLAR DAY FOR YOU. DESCRIBE A WOODEN NICKEL DAY FOR YOU.

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 4-6

C TRAVIS TOLD ALLY TO NOT HAVE LOW EXPECTATIONS OF HERSELF. DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE LOW OR HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR YOURSELF? GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF SOME HIGH EXPECTATIONS TO HAVE.

sketch space

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 7-9

A ALLY SEES HERSELF TIED UP AND LYING ON IMAGINARY TRAIN TRACKS, WATCHING THE ENGINE COMING AROUND THE CORNER.
DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN YOU FELT THE SAME WAY, DREADING SOMETHING THAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

B ALLY LIKES MATH AND ART IN SCHOOL. HOW ARE YOU AND ALLY ALIKE? HOW ARE YOU DIFFERENT FROM ALLY? WHAT SUBJECTS DO YOU LIKE IN SCHOOL? WHAT SUBJECTS DO YOU DISLIKE? WHY?

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 7-9

C WHEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL THAT REPRESENTS HER, ALLY CONSIDERS A BAG OF NOTHING OR A BAG OF DIRT. WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT HOW ALLY IS THINKING ABOUT HERSELF? WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO REPRESENT YOU? HOW DOES IT REPRESENT YOU?

sketch space

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 10-12

A ALLY TELLS MR. DANIELS, "IT WOULD BE EASIER TO BE INVISIBLE." WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MEANS BY THIS? HAVE YOU EVER FELT INVISIBLE? EXPLAIN.

B IN THE CAFETERIA ALLY WISHES SHE WAS MORE LIKE ALBERT. IN WHAT WAYS DOES SHE WANT TO BE MORE LIKE HIM?

C HOW DID ALLY "MAKE THINGS RIGHT" WITH ALBERT? HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO DO THIS WITH A FRIEND OR CLASSMATE? EXPLAIN.

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 10-12

sketch space

AIM ACADEMY

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 13-15

A WHO STOOD UP FOR ALBERT WHEN SHAY MADE FUN OF HIS CLOTHES? HOW DID SHE STAND UP FOR HIM? HAVE YOU EVER STOOD UP FOR A FRIEND OR CLASSMATE BEFORE?

B WHY WERE ALLY AND KEISHA THE ONLY TWO GIRLS IN THE HOLIDAY CONCERT THAT DID NOT HAVE FLOWERS?

sketch space

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 13-15

C WHY DOES MR. DANIELS HIGH FIVE ALLY? HOW DO YOU THINK ALLY FELT AT THAT MOMENT? WHY?

D WHAT DID KEISHA GIVE TO ALLY AND WHY?

sketch space

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 16-19

A ALBERT SAYS, "SOMETHING IS NOT A MISFIT SIMPLY BECAUSE IT HAS A DIFFERENT NAME". ALLY THINKS THAT "PEOPLE ACT LIKE THE WORDS 'SLOW READER' TELL THEM EVERYTHING THAT'S INSIDE". DO YOU AGREE THAT THERE IS MORE TO SOMEONE OR SOMETHING THAN ITS LABEL?

B WHY DOES ALBERT WEAR THE FLINT SHIRT EVERY DAY?

sketch space

AIM ACADEMY

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 16-19

C ALLY SHARES A STORY ABOUT SHAY HOLDING A GRUDGE. DO YOU DO THIS OR ARE YOU ABLE TO FORGIVE AND FORGET?

sketch space

AIM ACADEMY

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 20-23

A WHAT DOES ALLY SAY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OLDER BROTHER AND A BIG BROTHER? IF YOU HAVE OLDER SIBLINGS, DO YOU CONSIDER THEM OLDER BROTHERS/SISTERS OR BIG BROTHERS/SISTERS?

B ALLY'S MOM INSISTED THAT ALLY ATTEND SHAY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY. HAVE YOU EVER GONE TO A PARTY YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO ATTEND? WHY DID YOU GO THE PARTY?

sketch space

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 20-23

C ALLY EXPLAINS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALONE AND LONELY. DISCUSS WHAT SHE SAID AND A TIME THAT YOU FELT EACH OF THESE.

sketch space

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 24-27

A IN CHAPTER 24, MR. DANIELS TELLS ALLY THAT SHE THINKS "OUT OF THE BOX" AND THAT PEOPLE LIKE THAT ARE "WORLD CHANGERS". DISCUSS WHAT BOTH OF THESE PHRASES MEAN. DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO THINKS LIKE THIS?

B ALLY LEARNS THAT SHAY CHARGES HER "FRIENDS" FOR THE FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS SHE MAKES. WHAT DOES THIS SHOW US ABOUT SHAY'S CHARACTER? WOULD YOU PAY MONEY FOR ONE OF THESE BRACELETS?

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 24-27

C WHEN MR. DANIELS GIVES ALLY THE POETRY AWARD SHE THINKS IT IS A "PITY AWARD". WHAT EXACTLY DOES ALLY MEAN BYTHAT? WHY DO YOU THINK MR. DANIELS GAVE HER THE AWARD?

D KEISHA TELLS ALLY: "ONE THING'S FOR SURE. WE'RE NOT GONNA FIT IN, BUT WE'RE GONNA STAND OUT." IF YOU'RE TOTALLY HONEST, ARE YOU MORE COMFORTABLE FITTING IN OR STANDING OUT? WHY? DO YOU THINK THAT ONE IS BETTER THAN THE OTHER? WHY OR WHY NOT?

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 28-30

A MR. DANIELS TELLS ALLY THAT EVERYONE IS SMART IN DIFFERENT WAYS. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS? DISCUSS SOME OF THE WAYSTHAT EACH OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS ARE SMART.

B "IF YOU JUDGE A FISH ON ITS ABILITY TO CLIMB A TREE, IT WILL SPEND ITS WHOLE LIFE THINKING THAT IT'S STUPID." DISCUSS THIS FAMOUS QUOTE WITH YOUR FAMILY. HOW DOES THIS SAYING RELATE TO ALLY AND HER STRUGGLES?

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CHAPTERS 28-30

C MR. DANIELS TOLD ALLY SHE WAS BRAVE. HAVE EACH FAMILY MEMBER TALK ABOUT A TIME IN THEIR LIFE WHEN THEY HAD TO BE BRAVE.

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 31-33

A

IN CHAPTER 31, ALLY LEARNS ABOUT "LEARNING DIFFERENCES". HAVE YOU EVER HAD A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU REALIZED YOU THOUGHT ABOUT OR LEARNED ABOUT SOMETHING IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN OTHERS? IF SO, WHAT WAS IT AND HOW WAS YOUR THINKING DIFFERENT?

B

IN CHAPTER 32, WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT ALLY, TRAVIS, AND MOM SUPPORT EACH OTHER WITH DAD BEING AWAY? HOW IS DAD SUPPORTING THEM WHILE HE IS DEPLOYED?

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 31-33

C

IN CHAPTER 33, ALLY SAYS: "IN THE WORLD OF WORLDS, SOMETIMES THEY JUST CAN'T SAY EVERYTHING." WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MEANS BY THAT?

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CHAPTERS 34-36

A CHAPTER 34 ILLUSTRATES HOW KEISHA, ALBERT, AND ALLY SUPPORT EACH OTHER THROUGH THEIR PROBLEMS. HOW DOES THEIR REACTION TO ALLY'S SECRET HELP HER?

B IN CHAPTER 35, HOW COULD THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB WITH ALLY'S ASSIGNMENT?

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 34-36

C DO YOU THINK MR. DANIELS REALLY BETRAYED HER? WHY OR WHY NOT?

D ALLY SAYS SHE TRUSTS MR. DANIELS AT THE END OF CHAPTER 37. WHAT DO YOU THINK HER TRUST MEANS TO HIM? WHAT DID HE DO EARLIER IN THE CHAPTER TO SHOW HE CARES ABOUT HER AND HER TRUST?

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 37-39

A WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LAST SENTENCE: "I GUESS MAYBE 'I'M HAVING TROUBLE' IS NOT THE SAME AS 'I CAN'T'"?

B WHY DO YOU THINK SHAY RECOMMENDS ALLY FOR PRESIDENT? WOULD YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATION IF YOU WERE ALLY?

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 37-39

C HOW WAS THE SPEECH ALLY GAVE DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE SHAY GAVE?

D WHY DO YOU THINK MR. DANIELS MADE THE KIDS WRITE THEIR VOTES ON PAPER RATHER THAN RAISE THEIR HANDS?

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 40-44

A ALLY AND HER MOTHER'S TEARS ARE FOR JOY. HOW DID SHAY'S MOTHER REACT TO HER WHEN SHE HEARD THAT SHAY LOST THE CLASS ELECTION? DOES IT GIVE SHAY A RIGHT TO TREAT OTHERS THE WAY SHE IS BEING TREATED?

B IF YOU COULD MAKE SUGGESTIONS OR IDEAS FOR CHANGES AT SCHOOL, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE SUGGESTED TO ALLY?

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 40-44

C ALLY'S CLASS MUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: "SO I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL ME, IF YOU COULD HAVE AN UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF ANY SINGLE OBJECT, WHAT WOULD IT BE? IT CAN'T BE MAGICAL, HAVE SPECIAL POWERS, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. JUST AN ORDINARY, EVERYDAY TYPE OF OBJECT." HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTION?

AIM ACADEMY

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 45-47

A ALLY HAD TO WORK VERY HARD TO LEARN TO READ. HAVE YOU EVER HAD SOMETHING THAT WAS DIFFICULT FOR YOU THAT YOU HAD TO WORK VERY HARD AT TO BE SUCCESSFUL?

B WHAT DOES ALBERT MEAN BY "THICK SKIN" WHEN HE IS TALKING TO ALLY AND KEISHA? DOES THIS MAKE HIM STRONGER IN YOUR EYES? HOW DOES THIS MAKE YOU FEEL ABOUT ALBERT?

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 45-47

C WHAT DO THE WORDS GRIT AND PERSEVERANCE MEAN TO YOU? HOW DO THESE THINGS HELP CREATE CHANGE FOR ALLY AND HER FRIENDS?

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 48-50

A ALLY REALIZES THAT EVERYONE HAS PROBLEMS THAT MAKE THEM SCARED OR WORRIED. SHE CALLS THEM CONCRETE BLOCKS. WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WORRY ABOUT? (IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ABOUT SCHOOL.)

B MR. DANIELS TELLS ALLY TO FOCUS ON THE THINGS SHE DOES WELL. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU DO WELL? WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP FOCUS ON THEM RATHER THAN YOUR CONCRETE BLOCKS?

sketch space

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTERS 48-50

C WHY DOES ALLY TRY TO TALK TO SHAY AFTER SHE HAS BEEN SO MEAN TO HER? WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO THE SAME IF SOMEONE HAD TREATED YOU THE WAY SHAY TREATED ALLY?

sketch space

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FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTER 51

A ON PAGE 262, IT SAYS "HER VOICE CRACKS" WHILE MRS. SILVER IS APOLOGIZING TO ALLY. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED THIS YOURSELF?

B WHAT DO YOU THINK MADE ALLY WANT TO GO BACK AND ASK MR. DANIELS TO HELP HER BROTHER, TRAVIS?

FISH IN A TREE

CHAPTER 51

C WHY DO YOU THINK ALLY PASSED HER PIECE OF PAPER WITH THE WORD "POSSIBLE" ON IT, TO HER BROTHER?

D IS THERE ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU ONCE THOUGHT WAS "IMPOSSIBLE" THAT COULD NOW BE POSSIBLE?

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