

SLEEP^{THE}OVER

Discussion Questions

1. Before the sleepover begins, Meghan is curious about what things she might have been missing out on, due to her overprotective parents. Has there ever been a time you questioned a rule someone in authority made for you? If so, how did you handle this situation? What did you think about the way Meghan defied her mom's wishes and/or rules?

2. Meghan has high expectations for her night, but is also out of her own comfort zone. Have you ever had an occasion like that in your own life?

3. What did you think about Veronica? Would you want her as a guest at your sleepover? Why or why not?

4. What did you think about the way the other girls treated Veronica in the beginning? The middle? The end? How do you think their opinion of her changed and why?

5. Most of the girls are dealing with sibling relationships (or the lack of them) in this story. How do you think being so much younger than her siblings affected Paige's outlook on the sleepover and everything that followed? How do you think Meghan's being an only child dictated her responses to everything that happened? Did anything in the story remind you of your own family dynamic?

6. Did you have any guesses about where Anna Marie might be at different points in the story? Did you figure it out before the big reveal at the end? How did you feel once you realized where she was?

Book Club Guide





Discussion Questions, cont.

7. Meghan wakes up with a missing eyebrow. Have you ever done anything on a dare that you later wished you hadn't? What's the craziest thing you've ever done at a sleepover?
8. Meghan tells us that Jake has a reputation for being the class "bad boy." What were your impressions of him and did they change at all during the story? Why do you think he was okay letting his classmates believe this about him?
9. Meghan does some things that are very daring for her as she hunts for Anna Marie. Did you agree or disagree with her decisions?
10. How do you think Meghan changes from the beginning of the book to the end?

Hey, Did You Know? (Fun Behind the Scenes Tidbits From the Author)

1. Meghan packs her stuffed hippo, Hippy, to bring with her. In real life, I have a stuffed hippo, Hippy, who I got when I was nine and have slept with every night since, even though—at least according to the birthday on my driver's license—I'm pretty definitely a grown-up now. You can see a picture of Hippy and read a funny story about how he was in my wedding by visiting the "Interview with Tween Jen" page under the Bio tab on my website. (Speaking of weddings, Meghan's doorbell plays the song I walked down the aisle to when I got married.)
2. I am obsessed with hedgehogs, because they're the cutest. But I hadn't included any in my books before, and that had to change... in a big way. A really big way!
3. Jake is named after the boy in the movie *Sixteen Candles*, who I had THE HUGEST crush on when I was thirteen. I even dressed Sleepover Jake in *Sixteen Candles* Jake's outfit as homage. But I (very much accidentally) gave Sleepover Jake a last name only one letter off from a boy named Jake Robano, in my 10 year-old daughter's class. (cont).

Hey, Did You Know? (cont)



3. (cont) It was one of those weird things where I must have read the class list and his name just stuck in my brain somewhere, but I never made the connection when I was writing. I thought I had pulled the last name out of thin air. My daughter was helping me proofread the final pages and pointed it out, but it was too late to change it. Luckily Jake's mom had a good laugh about it when I explained things to her. So far, I don't think anyone's teased him about starring as the love interest in a book!

4. When Veronica talks about buying night vision glasses so she could spy on the Chinese food delivery person coming to her door, this was based entirely on a real scenario—a former coworker of my husband's did exactly this.

5. The song *American Girl* was one I used to dance to with my daughter when she was a baby—she loved it, for some reason. (Well, okay, it is a pretty good song!).

6. Meghan's expression "Oh. Heavenly. Heckweasels!" was borrowed from my literary agent. It was her response when I emailed her the story idea for the this book (followed by the words, "You have to write this!". Turns out, I'm very good at taking orders.)

7. Veronica's reference to having completed the Junior Hardy Boys certification course is me giving a shout-out to my editor, who also works on that series.

8. Most of the teachers mentioned in the book are named after real-life friends. Miss Shanley is named after my best friend, Miss Ross is after my next-door neighbor growing up, and Principal Wexman is named for a family friend.

9. This is the first book I've written where I've named the chapters and it was so much fun I plan to do it forevermore!

