

The Last Kids on Earth
Discussion Guide
Grades 3-7

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- What is an apocalypse? What might life after the apocalypse look like?
- How do you define a hero?
- Frontload vocabulary (see vocabulary list chapter 1-2)

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Why does Jack need to go to CVS? (Ch. 1)
- As the story reveals Jack's background, do you think the apocalypse is a relief to him? (Ch. 2)
- Why does Jack sleep for so long? Why does the last look from June mean so much to Jack? How does Jack's interest in photography help him during the apocalypse? (Ch. 1-3)
- What advantages do human beings have compared to zombies? (Ch. 4)
- Why do Jack and Quint sit together silently for a long time? What could they be thinking? How would you describe Jack and Quint's personalities? (Ch. 5)
- How does Jack feel when he sees the family photo? Why does he confess that he was lying? (Ch. 6)
- Why does Jack have a fantasy of June portrayed as a damsel in distress? (Ch. 7)
- How does the author depict the changes in Dirk? Explain using details from the book. (Ch. 8)
- How do Jack and his friends expand the tree house? (Ch. 9)
- Why does Dirk use the analogy of Indiana Jones? (Ch. 10-11)
- Why do you think June seems angry when she says that she is not a damsel in distress? (Ch. 11-13)
- How does Jack's team defeat Blarg? What makes Blarg different from other monsters? (Ch. 13-17)
- Do you agree with Jack about staying at the tree house? Why or why not? (Ch. 17)

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- How does teamwork play a significant role in the story? Do you think everyone plays an important role as part of the team? Why or why not?
- Complete the Influences on a Character Graphic Organizer to explore all the influences on Jack.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.