

Flora and Ulysses
Discussion Guide
Grades 3-7

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

- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about comic books and terms that correspond
- Frontload vocabulary (see vocabulary list)

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

Chapters 1 - 10

- Why did Flora have to sign a contract?
- Why did Flora give CPR to a squirrel?
- How did Flora name the squirrel?
- What did the vacuum do for Flora and Ulysses?

Chapters 11 - 20

- What do the words “Do not hope, instead, observe.” mean to Flora? How does she use these words?
- What does Flora think of Ulysses?
- What can Ulysses do?
- Who is William?
- How does Flora view William?
- What did Ulysses write? What does it mean?

Chapters 21 - 30

- What is “a Giant Ear”? Why was it important?
- Who is a superhero? Who is his nemesis?
- Why did Tootie and William stop Flora?
- Why would Flora’s dad be a bad spy?
- “Flare up like flame” What do you think he will do?
- What happened in the diner?

Chapters 31 - 40

- How does Flora view her dad? Why?
- Who does Flora seek out? Why?
- What does Dr. Meescham do for Flora and Ulysses?
- What’s the significance of the giant squid painting?
- How did Ulysses save George?

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Chapters 41 - 50

- What did Flora, Ulysses, and George walk into when he returned home?
- What does Flora do about her mother? What does she decide to do?
- Why do you think Flora's mother decided to take a nap?
- Why did William Spiver stand up for Flora's mom? What happened to him?
- What did Flora's parents decide? Why do you think they came up with this plan?

Chapters 51 -60

- What ways did her mother act differently towards Ulysses?
- What happened in the middle of the night? Why do you think Ulysses listen to Flora's mother?
- How did Flora know that Ulysses didn't write the letter?
- How did Flora's mother want Ulysses to leave?
- How did Ulysses escape?

Chapters 61 - 68

- How did William become temporarily blind?
- What's Ulysses plan? How did he plan to do it?:
- Why did Flora think her mom was looking for the missing lamp?
- What does Ulysses write about?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- What's Your Problem*: Finding the problem through story elements and how the characters surrounding influence the problem. There could be more than one problem based on the connections.
- Why does Flora always thinking the worst has happened? Are her experiences in the book normal, or is she right that bad things keep happening all around her?
- Why is it important that Flora is a "natural born cynic"? Do you think she really is one? Why or why not?
- What style changes did you notice while reading? How did that make you the reader more engaged?

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.