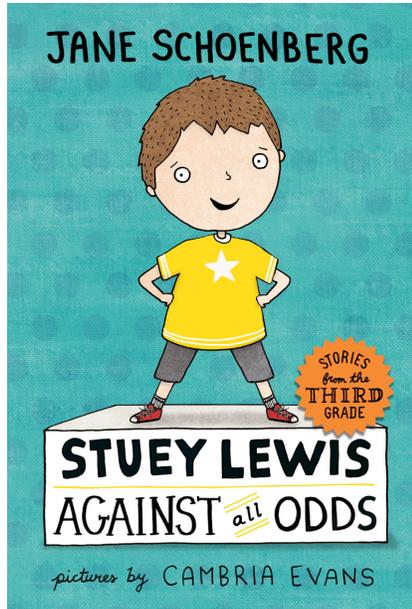


# STUEY LEWIS AGAINST ALL ODDS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Grades 1-4 / Ages 6-9 • HC: 978-0-374-39901-6  
Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers



“With a broad emotional range in both writing and illustrations, this is a cut above most early chapter books.”

–*Booklist*

“Stuey is just the right kind of friend—confident and independent—for any third grader.”

–*Kirkus*

“...A great choice for reluctant readers. The unique cast of characters creates many of the laughs in this engaging early chapter book.”

–*School Library Journal*

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR STUDENTS

- What is your favorite field trip you’ve ever taken? If you could plan the best-ever-class field trip, where would you go and what would you do?
- Why do you think it was so important for Stuey to get his class to his dad’s space center?
- If you could skype with anybody in the world who would it be?
- If you could teleport yourself anywhere in the universe where would you go and why?
- Anthony and Stuey are a bit nervous about flying in an airplane for the first time. Think about something that you had to do on your own for the first time. How did you handle it, and now that you’ve done it what advice might you give to somebody who hasn’t?
- If you were granted a holiday wish that was guaranteed to come true, and you knew you were already getting the presents that you really wanted, what would you wish for?

- What do you think Stuey and Anthony’s Mom is feeling when she has to say goodbye to them at the airport?
- Did you think it was a good idea for Stuey to get back on the airplane to get his wand? Why or why not? Have you ever left something you cared about somewhere? What was it and did you ever get it back?
- Do you think every day is Kid’s Day? Why or why not?
- What did you think of Stuey and Anthony’s Mother’s Day plan? If you were to crown your mom queen for a day, or your dad king for a day, what would your plan be?
- Will and Steven Roy are really good friends to Stuey and Anthony. What are some qualities that make a person a good friend?
- Why do you think it was so important for Stuey to bring something unique to the pet show?
- What do you think about competitions where prizes are awarded? Do you like Rosa’s idea that everyone should win a prize, or do you think there should be first, second, and third prizewinners. Explain why.
- At the end of third grade Stuey tells Will and Ginger, “I wouldn’t mind having my life be a little less complicated for awhile. Maybe I’ll even try boring.” What do you think the chances of Stuey’s life becoming boring are, and why do you think that?
- Often times facing a difficult challenge can bring about a positive change. List some of the positive changes that Stuey had in third grade. Brainstorm a list of positive changes that you and the kids in your class have experienced this year.

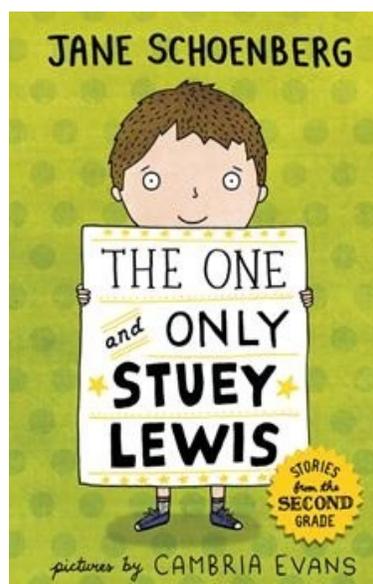
### ACTIVITIES FOR FURTHER UNDERSTANDING

- Ask your students to keep a nighttime journal for a week. Have them record the constellations and planets that they locate in the night sky. Have them draw the moon each night for seven days.
- Come up with a handful of potential field trips that are “doable” for your class. Bring all of your students into the process, i.e. brainstorm different ideas, acknowledge and discuss all the choices, (even ones that are not

doable so kids understand why they are not) vote on the final locale. If money needs to be raised, or volunteers or transportation organized, have them be part of figuring out how to accomplish that as well. Let them “own” this experience by being an integral part of putting it together.

- Have a class discussion about a holiday, or an important event, when somebody special to them was unable to attend, but really wanted to be there. Discuss the challenges of not always having family members or close friends around because of distance, work schedules, different circumstances, etc. Have your students write about a time when they wished they could be in two different places at the same time.
- Have your students write a list of all the things their mom, dad or guardian does for them on a weekly basis. Encourage your kids to think about one special thing they might like to do for that person. Ask your students to do whatever it is, then have them share their experiences in a class discussion.
- Ask your students to imagine and draw an exotic animal that they might like to have as a pet. They should name their pet, and write a little description about it. Then have a writer’s circle where they can share their “pets.” Create Best-in-Show medals out of paper, and award everyone a medal after they are done.

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