



Discussion Questions

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Important: *When responding to these questions, be sure not to share names to protect the privacy of others (and to avoid drama-o-rama).*

Chapter 1: Weird Behavior #1– Harsh Judgement

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, how much harsh judgment is floating around the halls of your middle school? (1 = not that much; 5 = tons) Explain why you chose that number.
2. What type of stuff do students tend to judge others about? How much judgment is actually “jumping to conclusions,” or people assuming others judge them when they are not.

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Chapter 2: Weird Behavior #2– Changing Friendships

1. Have you experienced friendship changes in the last year? What was the hardest part of that change? Did anything positive come out of it?

Chapter 3: Weird Behavior #3– The Whole “Popularity” Thing

1. This chapter describes two different types of popularity, well-liked students and high-status students. Does this description fit the popularity scene at your school? If not, describe the scene.
2. If you could change something about popularity at your school, what would you change?

Chapter 4: Weird Behavior #4– Crushes & Warp Speed Dating

1. This chapter explores that there is pressure in some groups to start dating. Does that happen at your school? Why do you think there is pressure to date in middle school?



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Chapter 5: Weird Behavior #5– The Ins and Outs of Cliques & Groups

1. What is the group scene like at your school? Do groups have different labels and ranks? What are the negative effects of this group scene? Are there positive effects?

Chapter 6: Weird Behavior #6– Gossip & Drama-O-Rama

1. Everyone gossips from time to time. Gossip that is judgmental, one-sided, and shared behind someone's back is especially toxic. On a scale of 1 to 5, how much gossip is shared at your school? (1 = not much; 5 = tons)
2. How do you handle gossip about others? How do you deal with gossip about you?

Chapter 7: Weird Behavior #7– Social Media, Phubbing, & FOMO

1. Social media has both positive and negative effects. What positive impact does social media have in your middle school? What are the negative impacts?





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2. When your parents were in middle school, social media didn't exist. Do you think middle school back then was better, the same, or worse?

Chapter 8: Weird Behavior #8– Conflict and Aggressive Behaviors...Ouch!

1. This chapter breaks down the difference between rude, mean, and bullying behavior. What advice would you share with a new student about how to deal with these behaviors?
2. Is there something your school could do to improve the environment?

Chapter 9: Weird Behavior #9– Peer Pressure Party

1. What things are kids pressured to do at your school?
2. Have you felt pressure from your friends or peers to do things you didn't want to do?
3. Are kids that stand up to peer pressure respected? Explain.

Chapter 10: Weird Behavior #10–STRESS!

1. Rate your stress level on a scale of 1 to 5. (1 = not much; 5 = tons). If you feel a lot of stress, where



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does it come from? (pressure I put on myself, pressure from my family, pressure from peers, something else, all of the above)

2. Do you have things that you do to manage your stress? Explain.

Afterword—Ideas and Resources to Help Schools Combat Weird Behaviors

1. The book's afterword shares ideas to improve middle school campuses. Which of these ideas do you think would improve your middle school? Feel free to share a new idea.



U.U.M.S!!!

