

THE SMALLEST GIRL IN THE SMALLEST GRADE JUSTIN ROBERTS

Nobody notices the smallest girl in the smallest grade. But she notices them. She sees everything that happens around her, all the bullying and cruelty. What would it be like if everyone was kinder?

Questions:

- 1. How would it feel if nobody noticed you? How do you think Sally feels?
- 2. What do you think you would notice if you paid super extra special attention? Would you notice only bad things, or good things too?

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- 3. How would you feel if someone tripped you in the hall? Is the only feel the physical hurt you feel when you fall down?
- 4. Why does the boy try to hide his tears when he gets pushed off the slide? How do you think he felt? Have you ever wanted to hide your tears?
- 5. How would you feel if you met someone's dad and they were big and scary? How do you think Sally feels watching all of this?
- 6. Look at the picture of the jungle gym. What happened to the boy on the ground? What are the other kids doing? Is that good or bad? What should they be doing?
- 7. "She'd seen how a whisper could make someone cower like a bulldozer crushing through fields of wildflowers." Is that true? Does someone saying mean things about you destroy a lot of beauty inside you? Inside themselves? In the world around you?
- 8. Is it easy to be the first person who stands up for what is right? How do you think she felt standing there alone? How do you think she felt when others started laughing? When others started standing up?
- 9. Is it more important for people to like you and think you're cool, or to do the right thing? If everyone does the right thing and is kind, does doing the right thing and being kind become cool?
- 10. When people are kind, does everyone feel more connected? Is it easier to make friends and feel included?
- 11. When people do small, kind things does it matter? Do a lot of small, kind things add up? What happens when everyone is kind? What would that feel like?
- 12. Can anyone change the world? Can everyone change the world? What would happen if everyone tried to make the world a better, kinder place?