

LEVEL 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



About the Characters

1. Why do you think Skip reacts so strongly when someone laughs at his wobble? What does that tell you about him?
2. Breezy, Bubbles, and Flash each struggle in different ways. What do their challenges show about how everyone learns differently?
3. Which character changed the most from the beginning to the end of the book? What clues helped you notice that?

About the Story

1. What moment do you think was the turning point for Skip, the moment when he started to see himself differently?
2. Why do you think Skip kept practicing even when it felt hard?
3. What scene showed you something important without the words saying it directly?

Themes & Deeper Lessons

1. What does the story teach about comparison? Why is it sometimes hard not to compare ourselves to others?
2. How does Skip learn the difference between being perfect and being proud?
3. What does the story say about effort? How do you know the author thinks effort has value?
4. Why do you think the painting was such an important moment for Skip? What did it represent?

Imagination & Creativity

1. If Skip made another painting later in the year, what do you think he would paint, and why?
2. If you designed a new character for Harbornook Haven, what kind of boat would they be, and what challenge would they face?
3. Imagine that Breezy or Flash got their own palm tree moment. What might that look like for them?

Illustration-Focused Questions

1. How does the illustrator use color to show different moods in the story?
2. Look at Skip's palm tree painting. What details help you understand how he was feeling when he made it?
3. Choose one picture in the book. What do you notice in the background that adds meaning to the story?

Connection to Real Life

1. Can you think of a time when you felt wobbly, not physically but emotionally? What helped you steady yourself?
2. Is there a time when you tried something new and felt proud, even if it was not perfect? What did you learn from that experience?
3. How can you support a friend who feels embarrassed or unsure, the way Skip did?

LEVEL 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONT.

Extra Credit (For Advanced Groups or Strong Readers)

1. What do you think the palm tree symbolizes in the story?
2. Why do you think the author chose boats instead of people to tell this lesson?
3. How would the story change if Flash did apologize? Would the message be different?