



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Several inventions are mentioned in the book. Discuss which one is your favorite and why?
 - Lie Detector Pen – Detects if someone is lying based on their handwriting.
 - Scootcase – A carry-on suitcase that doubles as an electric scooter.
 - Shoe with adjustable heel – Shoes that have low-heel for daytime and adjust to a high-heel for evening.
 - Gumball Smasher Blaster – Injects new flavoring into gumballs and shoots them out of a tube.
 - Rearview mirror for clothing – Micro camera attaches to the back of your clothes so you can watch what's going on behind you on your phone.
 - Eavesdropping pen – Memorizes and reproduces what someone has written.
2. The three friends, Riley, Henry and Charlotte, each struggle with a sense of belonging. Discuss what circumstances each character has difficulty with, and what they can do to overcome it.
3. During Riley's adventure, she makes a few mistakes. Discuss these mistakes and why you think she made them.
4. Discuss why Riley and Henry make such a good duo and how the addition of Charlotte makes the friendship group even stronger.
5. At the very end of the book, there's a quote by Nikola Tesla. What do you think he means?

“Let the future tell the truth and evaluate each one according to his work and accomplishments. The present is theirs; the future, for which I really worked, is mine.” Nikola Tesla.

BONUS ACTIVITY: *The Secret Notebook* cover artwork, by artist Teresa Martinez, includes some of the actual drawings from Nikola Tesla's patents. Try to make a mechanical drawing of Henry's Gumball Smasher Blaster.