

MY INVENTED LIFE

Teacher's Guide

Discussion Questions

1. Who is your favorite character? Least favorite? Why?
2. Eyeliner Andie is a prickly person. Why does Roz want to be her friend?
3. In Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT, Rosalind disguises herself as man to escape the castle. When she meets her true love in the forest, she keeps her disguise to find out more about him. Why does Roz assume a different identity?
4. Does Roz achieve her goals? Does her new identity help or hinder her quest?
5. Should Roz throw off her disguise in the end?
6. Think of a GLBTQ person you know. Is that person open about his or her sexual identity (like Roz) or does he or she keep it hidden (like Eva)? Why?
7. Have you ever heard someone say, "That's so Gay?" How did it make you feel?
8. Day to day life is filled with examples of acceptance and intolerance of all kinds. Share your experiences with the group.
9. Why does the author use sentence fragments? Are they effective or distracting?

Cross – Curriculum Tie Ins

LANGUAGE ARTS

Write a different ending for the main plot or any of the sub-plots.

Invent a neologism and use it in a short story.

DRAMA

Write a monologue for one of the characters. Act it out.

Write a skit based on one of the scenes in the book. Act it out.

Make a two-minute video based on what you got out of the book.

SOCIAL STUDIES

If there a Gay-Straight Alliance at your school, learn how it was started. What sort of

activities do they sponsor? What have they accomplished?

If you don't have a Gay-Straight Alliance at your school, consider starting one.

Contact Gay-Straight Alliances at other schools to learn about their successes and failures.

HISTORY

Research the history of gay rights in the U.S. Create a time line to show significant events. Study the history of gay rights in other countries.

Compare and contrast the approaches to gay rights in two countries. Say Brazil and Canada.

Snack

Mayan Hot Chocolate

Cut a small chile pepper in half and remove the seed. Boil chile in 2 cups water until volume is one cup.

Strain chili and seeds from remaining water and discard. Keep water for later.

Combine 5 cups milk with one vanilla bean (split in half) and a cinnamon stick. 2 tsp of vanilla can be substituted for the vanilla bean. Cook over a medium heat until milk steams and bubbles form around the edges.

Lower the flame and add 8 oz of dark chocolate. Stir with a whisk as the chocolate melts to avoid burning.

Add chili water to taste. Remove vanilla bean and cinnamon stick before serving.

Garnish with whipped cream if desired.

Project Ideas

Find a scene in AS YOU LIKE IT that parallels a scene in MY INVENTED LIFE. Act out both scenes. Discuss the similarities and differences.

Related Reads

BOY MEETS BOY by David Levithan

PARROTFISH by Ellen Wittlinger

HARD LOVE by Ellen Wittlinger

AM I BLUE by Joan Bauer

DRAMARAMA by E. Lockhart

Web links

Elizabethan Curse Generator: HYPERLINK "<http://www.trevorstone.org/curse/>"
www.trevorstone.org/curse/

Fun with neologisms: HYPERLINK "<http://www3.merriam-webster.com/opedictionary/>"
<http://www3.merriam-webster.com/opedictionary/>

GLBT Youth web forum (includes coming out stories): HYPERLINK "<http://www.thegyc.com/fireboard/>"
www.thegyc.com/fireboard/

A list of resources for lesbian youth: HYPERLINK "http://www.lesbian.com/youth/youth_intro.html"
www.lesbian.com/youth/youth_intro.html

State Standards

Coming soon!

Author Bio

I grew up on a sailboat, sharing the tiny forecabin with my sister and the sail bags. We still are friends, and I continue to travel to exotic corners of the world. I have learned how to make bread from Bedouins in Yemen and played Hacky Sack with children in Thailand. My passion for travel is second only to my love for books that take me to every world imaginable. I live in Taos, New Mexico with my husband, two sons, a cat that acts like a dog, and another that believes he's a rabbit.