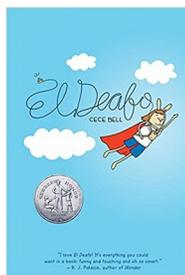


Books by the Stack



El Deafo by Cece Bell

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear--sometimes things she shouldn't--but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she's longed for.

Why you'll like it: Graphic novel, funny, friendship, inspiring

About the Author: Cece Bell has written and illustrated several books for children, including the Geisel Honor book *Rabbit & Robot: The Sleepover*. She lives in Virginia with her husband, author Tom Angleberger

Questions for Discussion

1. In what ways does losing her hearing affect Cece socially? Mentally? Physically?
2. Cece uses many different kinds of clues to help her lip-read. What are the clues and how do they help?
3. There are seven different things that make lip-reading difficult for Cece. How does each of these make it harder to lip-read?
4. Have you ever felt as if you were in a bubble of loneliness like Cece? When was it? What did you do to help pop your bubble? Would you rather have a friend like Laura or be in a loneliness bubble?
5. How does Cece's life change because of Laura? Are the changes mostly positive or negative? If you were Cece, how would you have dealt with Laura's pushiness?
6. How does wearing glasses help Cece in school? With her deafness?
7. Is it right or wrong for Cece to use her Phonic Ear to monitor Mrs. Sinkleman's movements? Why?
8. What happens after Cece's classmates learn of her ability to hear Mrs. Sinkleman throughout the entire school building? How is this a defining moment for Cece?
9. How does Cece's view of the Phonic Ear change throughout the book?



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