Miss Bixby’s Last Day by John David Anderson

Loving their gifted teacher, three boys are dismayed when the teacher falls ill and leaves for the rest of the school year, a situation that compels them to share their stories while cutting class and journeying across town together on a fateful day.


About the Author: John David Anderson is an award-winning American writer of children's fiction. His works include Ms. Bixby's Last Day, Insert Coin to Continue, The Dungeoneers, Sidekicked, and Minion. Anderson lives in Indianapolis, Indiana with his wife and two children.

Questions for Discussion

1. How does Ms. Bixby handle Rebecca Roudabush and her cooties? What is it about the way she responds to the situation that speaks to her placement in the Good Ones category?

2. Why do you think Ms. Bixby has saved Topher's drawings and Susanna's poems?

3. Once, Ms. Bixby wanted to be a magician. If her teacher had created a folder of her work when she was ten years old, what items would you imagine being inside?

4. According to Topher and his friends, there are six types of teachers. What are the types?

5. How would you describe The Plan? How do they overcome the obstacles they encounter?

6. What is your favorite "Bixbyism"? Why?

7. Imagine you had only one day left on earth. What would you do with it?

8. What does Ms. Bixby do to earn Brand's trust?

9. What happened with Ms. Bixby that made Steve suspect that something was wrong with her?

10. Topher observes that something specific in time changes everything. What changes everything?

(Questions provided by publisher)