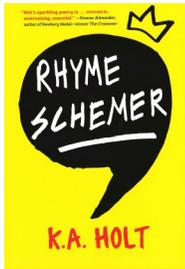


# Books by the Stack



## *Rhyme Schemer* by K. A. Holt

Kevin has a bad attitude. He has a real knack for rubbing people the wrong way. And he's even figured out a secret way to do it with poems. But what happens when the tables are turned and he is the one getting picked on?

**Why you'll like it:** touching, funny, poetry

**About the Author:** K.A. Holt is the author of *Rhyme Schemer* and *House Arrest*, along with several other books for young people. She lives with her family in Austin, Texas, and is active within the vibrant Texas writing community.

### Questions for Discussion

1. Describe Kevin's attitude toward school and toward his classmates. What accounts for his behavior? Is he a sympathetic character? Why or why not?
2. Discuss Kevin's relationship to his brothers. Which brother understands Kevin the best? Why?
3. How would you characterize the school principal? Does he respond appropriately? Why or why not? What questions could he ask that would help him better understand the dynamics between the boys?
4. Both Kevin's parents are doctors. Discuss their relationship with Kevin. Do they understand his feelings? Why or why not? Use details from the story to support your answer.
5. Why does Kevin's mother insist that the entire family attend a dinner with her boss? What happens at the dinner and how is Kevin "saved"?
6. What happens to Kevin's notebook and how does Robin get his hands on it? Why does Robin blackmail Kevin with it?
7. When one of the band members from Petey's band asks about using Kevin's poetry, what is Kevin's response? Why does Petey not invite Kevin to be a part of the band?
8. Who is Kelly and how does she respond to the conflict between Robin and Kevin? Why does Kevin stick up for her?
9. Explain the conflict between Kevin and Robin. Discuss how it unfolds and changes throughout the story. How would you describe their relationship at the end of the story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. common core aligned teacher's guide K.A. Holt DISCUSSION AND WRITING (Continued...)
10. Choose a scene to which you have a particularly strong reaction. Summarize the scene. Then discuss how the characters respond to the events. How does the scene move the plot forward?
11. Compare and contrast Mrs. Little, the librarian, with Kevin's mother. How would you describe each of them? How does Mrs. Little assist Kevin?
12. What role does Giant James play in the story? How would the story be different if he were "written out"?

of the text? What would be lost if he were removed?

**13.** The final fight scene between Kevin and Robin is pivotal. Describe what takes place during this scene. How does Mrs. Little become involved? How is the tension between Robin and Kevin finally resolved? Is Kevin genuinely sorry about his role in their conflict? What about Robin?

**14.** Identify one important theme in the story and explain how it develops throughout. How do the characters respond to the theme? How does the theme advance the plot?

**15.** Figurative language is language that appeals to the senses. Identify a particularly descriptive passage in the story and discuss what impact it has on readers. For example, does it appeal to the sense of sight? What about the senses of touch, smell, hearing, or taste? How would you have coped with the same situation?

*(Questions provided by publisher)*



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