

# Books by the Stack

## *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier



Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly .

**Why you'll like it:** Coming-of-age story. Award-Winner. Crushes. Friendship.

**About the Author:** A critically acclaimed comics artist, Raina Telgemeier grew up in San Francisco, then moved to New York City, where she earned an illustration degree at the School of Visual Arts. She is the creator of *Smile*, a graphic memoir based on her childhood, which was a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the Will Eisner Award for Best Publication for Teens. Raina also adapted and illustrated the graphic novel versions of Ann M. Martin's *The Baby-sitters Club* books, which were selected for YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens list and *Booklist's* Top 10 Graphic Novels for Youth list. She also coauthored *X-Men: Misfits*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller. Her latest graphic novel for Scholastic is titled *Drama*.

### Questions for Discussion

1. Raina's accident changes many things in her life and teaches her about the meaning of true friendship. What lessons about friendship does she learn?
2. Art is one of Raina's favorite activities and usually keeps her busy when she is worried about something. Which activities help you clear your mind?
3. Why do you think that Raina would want to try out for the basketball team?
4. If someone embarrassed you in front of a friend, what would you do? Would you react as Raina did when her skirt was pulled down?
5. Raina believes that her friends say mean things to her to make themselves feel better. Do you think she is right? Why or why not?
6. Raina is disappointed by how her teeth look after her braces are removed. How do Raina's new friends react? How would her old friends have reacted?
7. Raina allows her feelings about her appearance to affect how she feels on the inside. Have you ever had similar feelings? What did you do to feel better?
8. Raina finds that the more she focuses on her interests, the more she likes herself. Why do you think she feels this way?
9. Raina realizes that people see her differently once she likes herself. Why do you think they do?

10. Raina's accident leads to a very difficult time in her life. Do her friends help her situation or do they make it worse?

*(Questions issued by Scholastic.com )*

