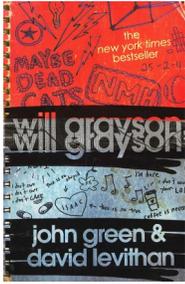


Books by the Stack



Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green

When two teens, one gay and one straight, meet accidentally and discover that they share the same name, their lives become intertwined as one begins dating the other's best friend, who produces a play revealing his relationship with them both.

Why you'll like it: funny, moving, witty

About the Author: John Green was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 24, 1977. He graduated from Kenyon College in 2000 with a double major in English and religious studies. His first novel, *Looking for Alaska*, was published in 2005 and won the Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in Young Adult literature in 2006. His other works include *An Abundance of Katherines*, *Paper Towns*, *The Fault in Our Stars*, which was a New York Times Best Seller. He is also the co-author, with David Levithan, of *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*. Two of John Green's titles, *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Paper Towns*, have been made into major motion pictures. (Bowker Author Biography)

Questions for Discussion

Note: Although both characters are named "Will Grayson," in this discussion guide, we have capitalized the name of the one from the odd chapters (Will Grayson) and have all lowercase letters for the one from the even chapters (will grayson).

1. In what ways is Will Grayson's life similar to will grayson's? How are they different? How does the style of the odd vs even chapters work to help us understand both Will and will as individuals? Do you think one has a significantly easier life? Explain your answer.
2. Consider Will and will's encounter at Frenchy's; how does this accidental meeting serve as a catalyst for change in each of their lives? Offer specific examples from the text to support your statements
3. Will Grayson states, "You cannot possibly pick your friends, or else I never would have ended up with Tiny Cooper." (p. 3) What is it about his relationship with Tiny that he finds so difficult? Do you think he's right to feel this way? Consider your own friendships—have you ever had a friend that you felt required an extra effort on your part to remain friends?
4. Will Grayson chose to defend Tiny's right to play football regardless of his sexual orientation, but is later regretful of his decision. Why do you think he has changed his mind about coming to Tiny's defense? What does this tell readers about how Will approaches relationships in general?
5. Will shares with readers that emotion is easy to resist "if you follow two simple rules: 1. Don't care too much. 2. Shut up." (p. 5) What can readers infer about Will from this statement? Do you think this is sage advice? Why or why not?

6. Describe will's home life; using examples, share how his relationship with his mom shaped him as a person. Why does he see his mother as fragile? How does will's relationship with his mother change and what does will discover about her?
7. From your experience, do you think it's difficult for most people to reach out for help? Consider the characters in the novel; who do they turn to for assistance? To whom do you turn when you are in need?
8. Why is will's relationship with Isaac so important to him? What does learning the truth about who Isaac really is force will to do?
9. Beyond his size, what is it about Tiny's presence that makes will feel not so alone? Why is it so important that will befriends Tiny when he does?
10. Will shares, "I'm nothing but a bit character in the Tiny Cooper story, and there isn't a damn thing I can do about it except get jerked around until high school is over and I can finally escape his orbit, can finally stop being a moon of his fat planet." (p. 157) What makes Will so angry with Tiny? What about their relationship frustrates him the most? Is he right to feel this way?
11. Discuss the significance of Tiny's musical production of *Hold Me Closer*; in what ways does sharing his personal experiences through this play allow Will and Tiny to evaluate their friendship? Predict how their relationship will evolve after the production.
12. As Will grows more frustrated with Tiny's choices, he narrates, "And then I realize what I can do. The weapon I have. Rule 2: Shut up. I step past him and walk toward class." (p. 157) Why does Will think silence is the best way to punish Tiny? What does he ultimately hope to accomplish? Is he right in making this choice? Why or why not?
13. Fear both motivates and incapacitates many of the characters in the novel. Consider how characters deal with their fears. Do they acknowledge their fears? Are they able to turn to others for help? Who are the people you seek out to assist you when you are afraid?
14. Considering Will and will's perspective, in what ways is *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* a story about things that have been lost? What does each of them find along the way?
15. Why is will and Will's final gift to Tiny so important? What does this act signify about the Will Graysons understanding of friendship? Have you ever gone to such great lengths to let a friend or loved one know what they mean to you? If so, what have you done to show your appreciation for them?

(Questions provided by publisher)



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