

~ **2024 SAKAI READS** ~
COMPASSION DISCUSSION GUIDE

Compassion is recognizing suffering and trying to do something to help.
Stories can help us explore and understand compassion.

*“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.
If you want to be happy, practice compassion.”*
— Dalai Lama XIV, *The Art of Happiness*

El Deafo

Cece Bell

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the author decided to make the story a graphic novel?
 2. What are some of the ways in which everyday life is set up for people who are hearing? How are some of those same things challenging or difficult for people who are deaf?
 3. Throughout the story, Cece learns what characteristics she values the most in a friendship. What characteristics do you look for when finding new friends?
 4. Would you want to be Cece’s friend? Why or why not?
 5. In what ways did Cece have to stand up for herself, especially with her friends? How do you think she felt when she did that?
 6. Did you ever have to stand up for yourself the way Cece did? How did you feel?
 7. What is Cece’s reaction to learning sign language? Why do you think she feels that way? How do you think you might feel in her situation?
 8. How does Cece come up with the name “El Deafo?” Why do you think she likes daydreaming about being a superhero?
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- How did reading the story help deepen your understanding of the importance of having compassion for others?
 - Why do you think reading fiction novels can help inspire compassion in people?
 - Do you have other suggestions for how to help increase compassion in our world?

Sources

"ADL Book of the Month: El Deafo." *ADL's Book of the Month*, Anti-Defamation League, Apr. 2015, www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/education-outreach/book-of-the-month-el-deafo.pdf. Accessed 1 Oct. 2018.

"Fish in a Tree Discussion Guide and Book Club Questions." *BetweenUsParents*, www.chicagonow.com, www.chicagonow.com/between-us-parents/2015/08/fish-in-a-tree-discussion-guide/. Accessed 1 Oct. 2018.

Staats, Rebecca. El Deafo Activity Sheet. *Indiana Library Federation*, www.ilfonline.org/resource/resmgr/2016-17...Book.../ElDeafo-final.pdf. Accessed 1 Oct. 2018.