



The Smartest Kid in the Universe

Chris Grabenstein

Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions

1. If you could eat some jelly beans to become the smartest kid in the world, would you? Why or why not?
2. Do you think the main character becoming the smartest kid in the world will bring good things or bad things for him?
3. Do you like the cover of the book? Why or why not? What would you change about it without reading the book?

Post-reading questions

1. Do you think Jake made the right choice by not telling his mom right away about all of his new knowledge? Why or why not?
2. Jake tells Dr. Farooqi he'd "like the option" of an "antidote" for the ingestible knowledge jelly beans. If you were in Jake's position, do you think you'd say the same thing?
3. If your brain was capable of learning new things super quickly, what is something you'd like to learn? What would you do with your new knowledge?
4. When Dr. Farooqi tells Jake he can either make an antidote or a Spanish-learning jelly bean, what did you expect Jake to say? Which would you choose?
5. What changes did you see in Jake's character throughout the book? Were they positive or negative changes?
6. How do you think Jake felt when he found out Dr. Farooqi's lab burned down? What did this mean for Jake?
7. Did you like the added mystery of the treasure and Mrs. Malviolo throughout the story?
8. What did you think about the ending of the book? Do you think the unfair things that happened along the way were worth the outcomes in the end?

Post-reading activities

1. Choose two books that you think fans of this book would enjoy and create a Like-Try-Why social media post. Follow the guidelines at tomesociety.org/competitions and enter your final project into the Like-Try-Why competition.
2. Create your own treasure map like the friends use to find the treasure in the book. For bonus points, make it a math problem and ask your friends to solve it to find the treasure!
3. Use a graphic design program (such as Canva) to redesign the cover of the book. Follow the guidelines for the Digital Book Cover Redesign competition and submit your final work.

More About This Book

Author's Website: <https://chrisgrabenstein.com/>

Publisher's Discussion Guide:

<https://chrisgrabenstein.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/SmartestKid-Educators-Guide.pdf>

Official Book Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/471910566>