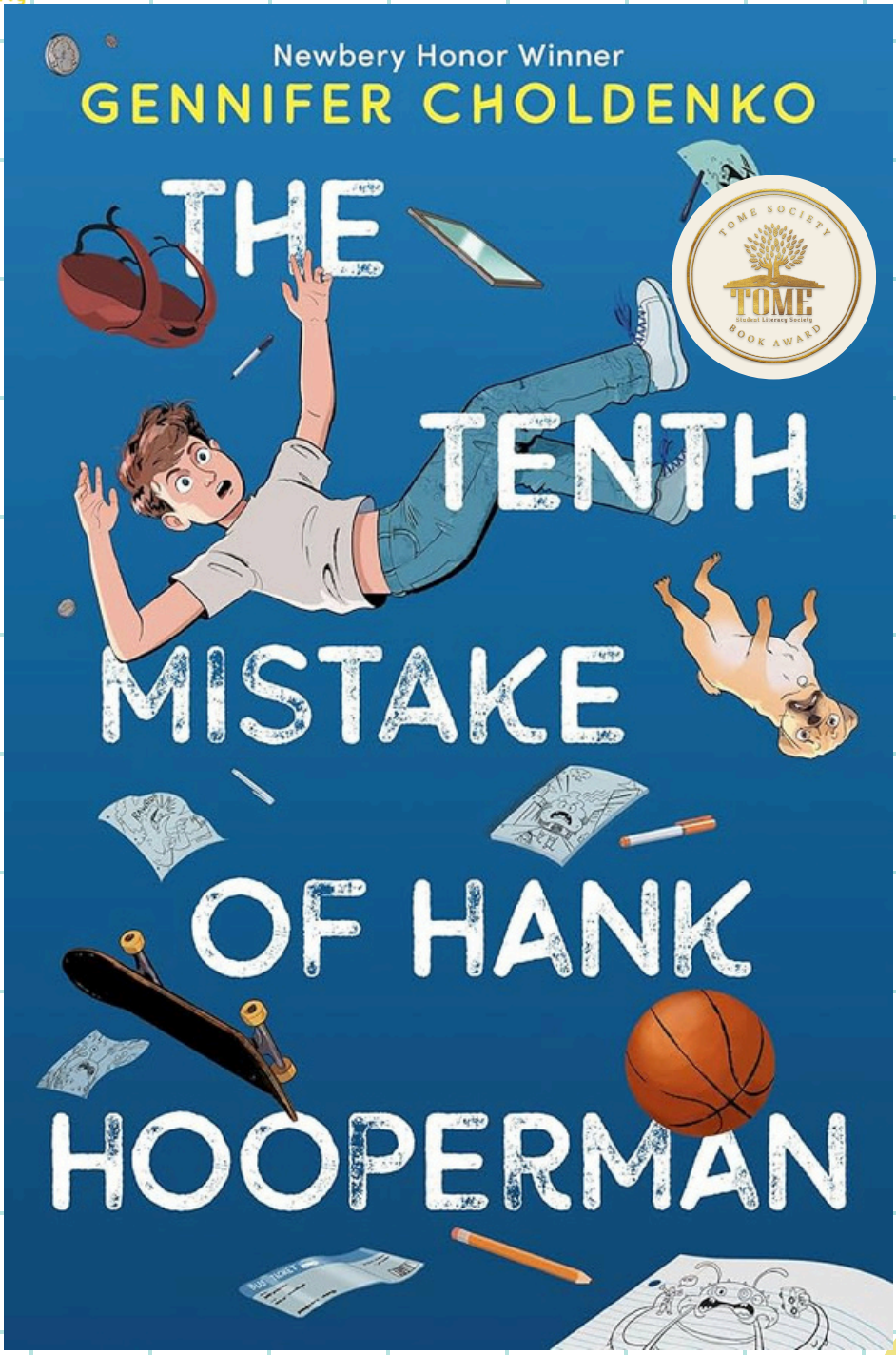
DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman
Gennifer Choldenko



www.tomesociety.org
©Copyright, Tome Society. This document may be reprinted with this copyright statement included and distributed for educational purposes only. No other resale use may be made of material at any time. All other rights reserved.

THE TENTH MISTAKE OF HANK HOOPERMAN

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. What responsibilities do you feel are reasonable for someone your age? What responsibilities do you have at home? Have you ever felt like you have responsiblities that are too much?
2. What does family mean to you? Has anyone in your family ever made a big mistake? How did you move past it?
3. Do you find it easy or difficult to ask for help? Explain your answer.

POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. Hank has to decide whether to trust people he does not know very well and ask for help when things get really hard. Do you think he made the right choice?
2. At the beginning of the story, Hank tries to keep everything under control after his mother disappears. Why do you think Hank feels like he has to handle everything on his own? How does his thinking about responsibility change throughout the book?
3. Hank makes several mistakes as he tries to care for Boo and navigate his new situation. Which mistake do you think teaches Hank the most important lesson? Why?
4. How do you see Hank change as he begins to trust the people offering to help him and boo? Do you think he felt relieved that some of the responsibility was taken off him?
5. How does the title tie in to the story?
6. Hank and Boo's relationship is central to the story. How does Hank show that he cares about his sister? What challenges make it difficult for him to be the kind of brother he wants to be?
7. Discuss these big themes with your group: loving someone who is not trustworthy, trusting someone new, the definition of family.

©Copyright, Tome Society. This document may be reprinted with this copyright statement included and distributed for educational purposes only. No other resale use may be made of material at any time. All other rights reserved.

THE TENTH MISTAKE OF HANK HOOPERMAN

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Create an infographic about foster care in your state. Research what causes children to be placed in foster care, how many kids are in foster care in your area, etc. Follow the guidelines and enter your project into the Infographic competition.
2. Create a resource for students who might suddenly find themselves caring for a younger sibling or dealing with a crisis.
    a. Create a one- or two-page Survival Guide that includes:
    b. Five practical pieces of advice.
    c. A checklist of trusted adults someone could turn to.
    d. Three healthy ways to cope with stress.
    e. A short explanation of why asking for help is a sign of strength rather than weakness.
    f. At least one quote or lesson from the book that inspired your guide.
3. Write a letter to the author from Hank's point of view. Before you do, read the author's acknowledgement to her brother and look at this picture on her website. Follow the guidelines to submit your letter to the Character to Author Letter competition.

MORE ABOUT THIS BOOK

- Author's Website
- Publisher's Discussion Guide

©Copyright, Tome Society. This document may be reprinted with this copyright statement included and distributed for educational purposes only. No other resale use may be made of material at any time. All other rights reserved.