



Bigg School: Best Friends Forever by Lisa Williamson

- Discussion questions
- Writing activities
- Cross curricular activities

	Discussion questions	Writing activities	Cross curricular opportunities
<p>Chapters 1-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the phrase ‘two peas in a pod’ mean? • Do you think Evie and Lola are likely to be mistaken for sisters? • How does Lola feel when she sees the <i>For Sale</i> sign outside her house? • How would you have responded to the <i>Would you rather?</i> questions? • In what ways do Evie and Lola differ in the way they deal with nerves? • Name one of the nicknames that Daniel uses to address Lola? • What did Miss Martinez do before she became a teacher? • What do you think Lola liked best about her first day at secondary school? What do you think Evie liked best? 	<p>Lola and Evie are both feeling extremely nervous about starting at their new school. Describe a time when you have felt very nervous about something. How did your body and mind behave?</p>	<p>PSHE: Lola has difficulty sleeping the night before starting at Henry Bigg Academy. Discuss things that you can do to help you fall asleep. Agree on a list of ‘Top Tips’ for sleepless nights.</p> <p>Art and Design: Lola loves cute stationery and she buys herself a pencil case covered in cats and a pen with a koala rubber on top. Design a set of stationery that reflects your tastes and interests.</p>

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<p>Chapters 5-8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your first impression of Cleo? • Do you think Lola’s Mum is right about Cleo being a bit nervous? • Do you know the meaning of your name? (Look it up.) Do you think name meanings are significant or important? • Do you agree with Lola that if you like someone you should just be nice to them, rather than tease them? • What is your impression of Dad’s flat? • Why do you think Dad spends so much time on his phone? • Would you have enjoyed Lola’s birthday celebrations? What would you have liked best? 	<p>Write a letter as Cleo to your friend who has emigrated to Australia. Tell them about your first week at Henry Bigg Academy.</p>	<p>Geography/ Art and Design: Lola and Evie created a collage about Japan as part of a primary school project. Pick a country and create a collage to represent it.</p>

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<p>Chapters 9-12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was Lola’s second day as a twelve-year-old her worst day ever? • At Henry Bigg Academy you receive a detention if you are given three conduct points. Do you think this is fair? • Do you think that Daniel is really sorry that Lola was given a detention? • What does the phrase <i>late bloomer</i> mean? • Why had Astrid been given a detention? • What is a <i>chakram</i>? • Do you think Evie and Lola are interested in all the same things? 	<p>Daniel and Lola write limerick poems to annoy each other. A limerick is a humorous poem made up of five lines. They often begin with <i>There was a ...</i> Write a limerick poem about one of the characters from the story. Try to make the 1st, 2nd and 5th lines rhyme with each other. Also try to make the 3rd and 4th lines rhyme with each other.</p>	<p>Science/ Art: Astrid’s favourite animal is a sloth. Research sloths (anatomy, habitat and diet) and then draw a labelled illustration of a sloth.</p> <p>PSHE: Discuss the way Lola feels about Evie getting her period. Why might some girls be keen for their periods to start? Why might some girls dread it? What advice would you give to Evie and Lola?</p>

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<p>Chapters 13-16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think Lola was rude about the houses she visited with Mum? • Why do you think Lola went to the dance club? • What does Lola like about the library? • Would you have preferred to go to the dance club or the Scribble Society? • What do we discover about Daniel in chapter fifteen? • Why do you think Lola likes the film <i>The Parent Trap</i>? • Lola describes Cleo as <i>attaching herself to Evie like a blood-sucking leech</i>. How do you think Evie would feel if she heard this description? 	<p>Complete the task set by Mrs Suleman in the second week of the creative writing club: Think of a smell that connects with a particular memory and write a short passage about it.</p> <p>Have a go at doing a <i>free write</i> for 10 minutes. Write down whatever comes into your mind. (You do not need to show this writing to anyone else.) Afterwards reflect on the process. Did you find it easy or difficult to think of something to write?</p>	<p>PSHE: With a small group discuss your own answers to the questions that Mrs Suleman hands out to the creative writing club. (See attached questionnaire.) Have you learnt anything new or surprising about your classmates?</p>

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<p>Chapters 17-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your interpretation of how the dodgeball game ended? • Why does Evie think Lola should stay away from Astrid? • The word <i>weird</i> is used in a derogatory way by both Evie and Lola in chapters 17, 18 and 19. What do you think they mean by weird? Why are they so concerned about looking weird? • Who did Lola and Evie dress up as at Halloween when they were in year 6? • Who is Astrid planning to dress up as at the Halloween disco? • Why does Astrid think that Evie and Lola seem really different? • Why do you think Lola dislikes Zane? • How do you feel about the way Evie, Cleo and the boys treat Lola at the cinema? 	<p>Re-write the incident at the cinema from Evie's point of view.</p> <p>Write an opening to a ghost story set in Disneyland.</p>	<p>PSHE: Consider Lola's feelings and emotions throughout these chapters. Complete the attached mood maps by drawing line graphs to show how Lola's feelings change throughout the dodgeball game and on the day of the cinema incident. Pick a word to describe how you think Lola was feeling at different moments.</p> <p>Drama: In a small group freeze-frame the moment at the cinema when Lola punches Evie's carton of popcorn. Picture the characters' expressions at that moment and try to convey their feelings through your facial expressions and postures.</p>

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<p>Chapters 21-24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did Dad do the night before he moved out, while he thought Lola was asleep? • Why do you think Daniel lies to Mr Grimshaw about falling? • Lola is surprised to discover that Matthew also had issues with friendships in Year 7. Do you think it is common for children to change friendship groups in Year 7? Why do you think this might be? • What does Mrs Suleman say to Lola at the disco which makes her feel really nice? • Lola and the Alices are impressed that Astrid has made her own costume for the disco. Do you think homemade costumes are better than bought or hired costumes? Why or why not? 	<p>Write a diary entry as Lola reflecting on your first term at Henry Bigg Academy. What have been the highlights? What have been the low points? What are you most looking forward to in the rest of Year 7?</p>	<p>Art and Design: Draw an illustration of a homemade costume that you would like to wear to a Halloween disco.</p>

	Discussion questions	Writing activities	Cross curricular opportunities
Chapters 21-24 continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did Lola realise when she looked at Evie in her angel costume?• Why do you think Cleo shrugged at Lola at the disco, rather than smirk at her as usual?• A major theme in this story is change. How does Lola feel about change at the start of the story? Has this changed by the end?• Do you think this is the end of Evie and Lola's friendship?	<p>Write a book review including your own thoughts and feelings about the story and why you think others should read the book.</p>	<p>PSHE: Discuss the themes of identity and belonging and how they relate to self-esteem. What are all the things that make Lola unique? Do you think Lola's new friends accept and like her for who she is? Consider what makes you unique. Create a scrap book page all about the things that make you 'you'.</p>

Questionnaire

1. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?
2. What is your favourite time of year?
3. What is your favourite film?
4. What is your favourite sport to play?
5. Name your three favourite smells:
6. Describe the best dessert you've ever had:
7. What is your favourite word?
8. Do you have any hidden talents?
9. If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be?
10. If it was raining meatballs, would you eat one?

Lola's mood map – the dodgeball game

Feelings – angry, annoyed, anxious, bored, calm, cheerful, confident, confused, dejected, delighted, disappointed, embarrassed, excited, frustrated, furious, nervous, surprised, upset.

Positive emotions

Negative emotions



Cleo does not pick Lola to be on her team.

Ms Khan tells Lola that she is 'on fire'.

Cleo and Lola are the only two remaining players.

Lola wins the game.

While walking home Evie tells Lola that she really hurt Cleo.

Lola's mood map – the cinema trip

Feelings – angry, annoyed, anxious, bored, calm, cheerful, confident, confused, dejected, delighted, disappointed, embarrassed, excited, frustrated, furious, nervous, surprised, upset.

Positive emotions

Negative emotions

Arriving at Evie's house in the morning.

Waiting for Evie to apply her make up.

Evie asking her to join Cleo and the boys at the cinema.

Being told that she cannot watch the film as she looks too young.

Evie asking her to watch the PG rated film.

Running home to Dad's house and meeting Kirsty.