

Discussion Guide: *Eddie Whatever*

1. What are some of Eddie's opinions about seniors at the beginning of the story? Have you ever had any of the same opinions, and why?
2. How can Eddie tell that Mrs. Boniface likes Zippy the robot? Why do you think having Zippy around is helpful for Mrs. Boniface?
3. Why does Lina believe her sister's ghost is haunting her? How would you describe what's happening?
4. How does learning about Lina's past change how Eddie sees Lina? What stays the same about their relationship?
5. What clues about the identity of the thief did you find throughout the story?
6. Which resident of Silver Brook ended up surprising you most, and why?
7. When Eddie's dad finally gets a new job, Eddie notices that he seems almost like a different person and compares him to the seniors, who can transform "as soon as someone takes them seriously or they get interested in something." What's an example of a time you've seen this kind of change happen to someone—or felt it happen in yourself?
8. Mrs. Callahan tells Eddie, "The best we can do is look out for each other as a community." What are some ways that Eddie has helped look out for the residents of Silver Brook? What are some ways they've looked out for him?
9. How would you sum up the main ideas of Eddie's bar mitzvah speech?
10. By the time Eddie has his bar mitzvah, how has his outlook changed since the beginning of his community service project?