

ACTIVITIES INSPIRED BY REAL FRIENDS & BEST FRIENDS

By SHANNON HALE and LEUYEN PHAM



EVENT TIPS

Play this friendship themed playlist to get the party started!

1. You're my Best Friend - Queen
2. You've got a Friend in Me - Randy Newman
3. Wannabe - The Spice Girls
4. Lean on Me - Bill Withers
5. Stand by Me - Ben E. King
6. I'll Be There For You - The Rembrandts
7. With a Little Help From My Friends - The Beatles
8. Why Can't We Be Friends - Smash Mouth
9. Team - Lorde
10. Umbrella - Rhianna
11. Count on Me - Whitney Houston



Refreshment Ideas:

Best Friends Baked Goods

- Use a heart shaped cookie cutter to make heart shaped cookies.
- Before baking, cut the hearts in half so that you can create Best Friends cookies.
- Put out a variety of frosting and sprinkles so event attendees to decorate and share cookies with their friends!

Make Your Own Snack Mix

Supply baggies, and let your event attendees create their own snack mix! Put the following snacks in bowls with scoops.

- Doritos chips
- Pretzels
- Goldfish
- M&Ms
- Chex cereal
- Sun Chips
- Totally Rad Punch



Totally Rad Punch

Combine the following ingredients in a punch bowl:

- Hawaiian Punch
- Ginger Ale
- Pineapple Juice
- Ice Cubes
- Orange Slices

Icebreaker Activities

Are You a Real Friend Trust Falls

Pair up into twos and take turns catching one another!

Solve the Human Knot

Create a circle in which each person holds hands with two different people who are not next to them. Then, try to disentangle the group into a circle without letting go of grasped hands!

Two Truths and a Tale

Have everyone to come up with three statements about themselves, one of which isn't true. Then go around the room, each person giving their "Two Truths and a Tale." Guess which statement isn't true.



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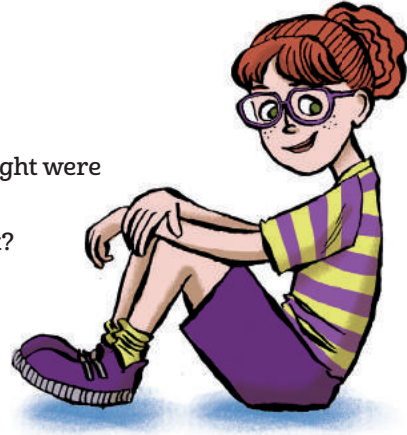
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Kick off your book club with these questions questions!

REAL FRIENDS

1. When you read the book how did you feel?
2. Have you ever felt like little Shannon did in the book?
3. Are friends ever stressful for you?
4. Were there some things that little Shannon did that you thought were the wrong choice?
5. Do you think in books the main character needs to be perfect?



BEST FRIENDS

1. How has Shannon changed from REAL FRIENDS to BEST FRIENDS?
2. What are some ways you relate to your friends?
3. Are you a different 'self' with each group of friends you have?
4. Have your friends ever tested you?
5. Has reading this book changed how you think about other people?



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READERS' THEATER

Use the below guide to act out a scene from **BEST FRIENDS!**

Instructions:

Divide into groups of 5.

Select a part to play!

Shannon Narrator Shannon Jen Jenny Crystal

Use the script to practice lines individually and then as a group—memorizing isn't necessary, just have fun!

Once everyone is comfortable with their lines take turns performing the scene for the larger group!

After each group has performed the scene sit down as a group and discuss the following:

- Why was Crystal upset?
- Have you ever said something mean about a classmate that you later regretted? Has someone ever said something about you? How did it make you feel?
- If you were Crystal would you have accepted their apology? Why or why not?
- In the scene Shannon says that in order to be popular some people have to be *unpopular*? Do you agree with this statement? Do you think this is fair? Why or why not?
- Do you think Shannon is mean? Why or why not?
- What would you have done if you were Shannon?



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READERS' THEATER SCRIPT

Shannon Narrator: Sixth grade was almost over. After summer we would start junior high. All year we'd been the oldest in the school, but soon we'd be the youngest again. Being the oldest meant that we were popular, and I was beginning to realize that being popular meant that some people weren't.

Shannon: It'd be fun to see how many people we could get in the chain. Like a world record!

Jenny: Well, there's some people who I don't want to touch...like Crystal.

Jen: Totally.

Jenny: She dresses like a weirdo and I bet she never showers.

Jen: My sister says her brother is a total loser too.

Shannon: Like, how is he a loser?

Jen: He dresses like a rocker, but a fake rocker.

Shannon: Oh, that's bad.

Crystal: *sniff, sniff, sob*

Jen: Crystal!?

Shannon: We weren't talking about you. We were talking about...a different Crystal from our neighborhood--

Crystal: *storms away*

Shannon: Oh no.

Jen: We should apologize.

[Shannon, Jen, and Jenny follow Crystal into the hallway.]

Jen: Hey Crystal? We're really sorry we made you--

Crystal: Just shut up!

Shannon: Crystal, I swear, we didn't--

Crystal: Cut the crap, Shannon, and never talk to me again!

[Crystal exits.]

Jen: Wow. She's got a stick up her butt.

Narrator Shannon: I didn't used to think I was mean, but maybe I was wrong.



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HEART COLORING PAGE

Decorate the Best Friends heart below!



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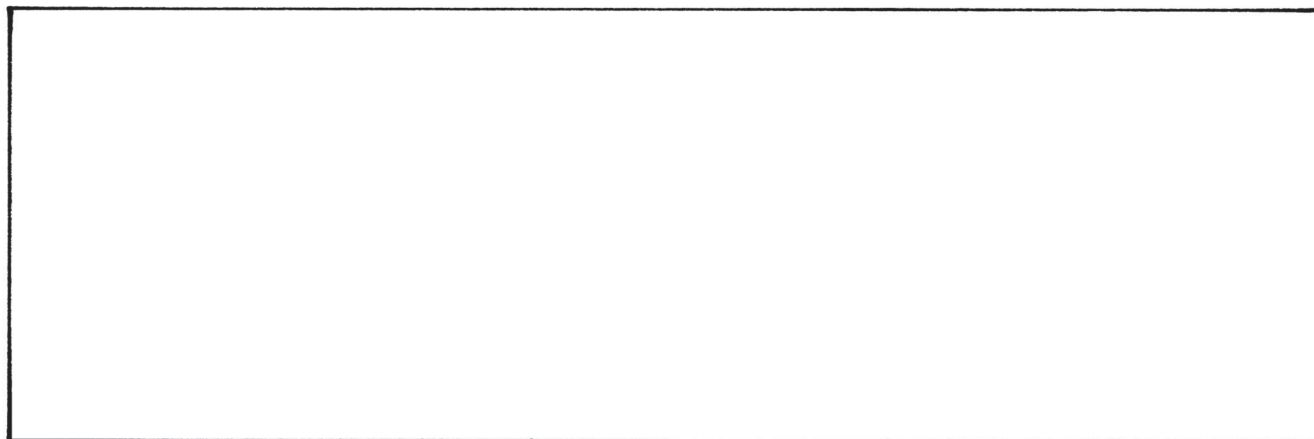
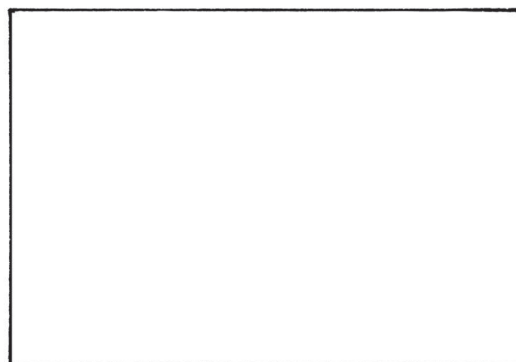
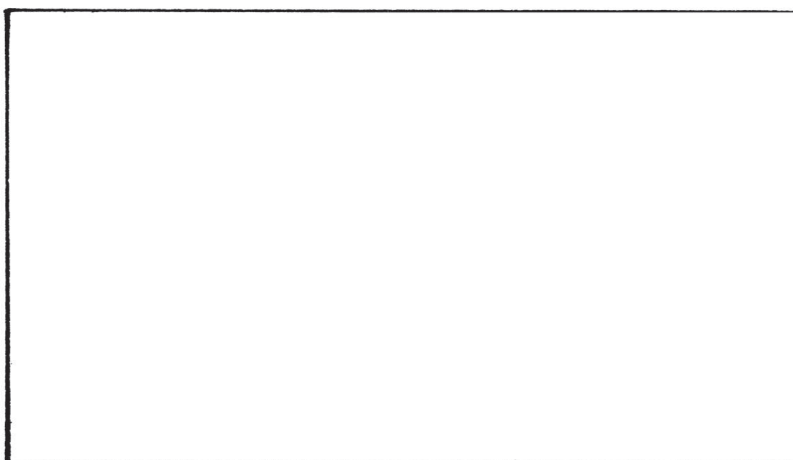
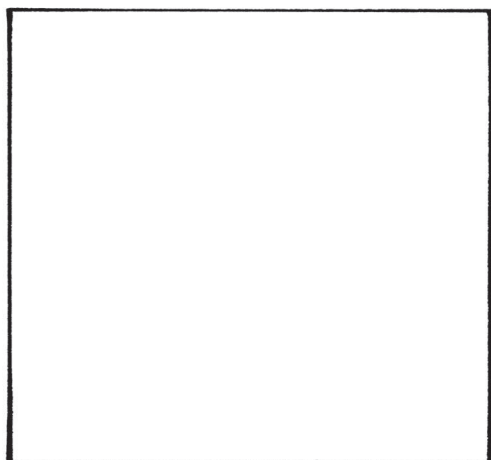
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COMIC ACTIVITY

What happened to you today?

Your story can be a graphic novel too! Pair up with a friend. On a piece of notebook paper, choose one partner to write the story of their morning today. Then, the other partner can use the panels below to illustrate the story. Finally, the partner who wrote the story can fill in the captions and dialog. Congratulations, you just wrote a graphic novel!



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IS YOUR FRIEND A BEST FRIEND?

Of course!
They saved
me a seat!

IT'S LUNCHTIME: DOES YOUR FRIEND
INVITE YOU TO SIT WITH THEM?

Not
always



They said yes
when I asked!



YOUR FRIEND WANTS
TO WATCH A SCARY
MOVIE, BUT YOU DON'T.
WHAT DO YOU DO?

WOULD YOUR FRIEND EVER SNEAK A
PEEK AT YOUR DIARY OR JOURNAL?

DO YOU AND YOUR FRIEND
LIKE THE SAME THINGS?

Find a movie
you both want
to watch!

Watch and
get scared!

No
way!

Maybe?

Yes
way!

Totally!
We're basically
twins!

Not
really



IF SOMEONE MADE FUN OF YOU,
YOUR FRIEND WOULD...

HOW DOES YOUR FRIEND
MAKE YOU FEEL?

EVEN THOUGH YOU
MIGHT NOT LIKE THE
SAME STUFF, DO THEY
STILL CARE ABOUT
THE THINGS YOU LIKE?

Laugh

Stay quiet
but check on
you after

Stand up
for you

Self-
conscious

Safe

Definitely!

Only
sometimes

YOU HAD A BAD DAY
AND START TO CRY,
WHAT DOES YOUR
FRIEND DO?

Give you
a hug

Call you
a cry baby

RESULT 1: REAL FRIENDS should definitely be supportive. Talk to your friends about your hobbies. They might be more interested than you think!

RESULT 2: REAL FRIENDS should always check on how you're feeling, but make sure to tell your friends how you felt if they stayed quiet and be honest if you're upset!

RESULT 3: A REAL FRIEND shouldn't make you feel self-conscious! Remember to believe in yourself because real friends like you for who you are!

RESULT 4:
100% REAL FRIEND!
You've got a bestie for life!
ReadRealFriends.com