

Teacher's Guide for Defying the Diva, by D. Anne Love

Questions for Discussion:

Haley keeps the secret that she's being bullied because "Camilla and the rest of them would make my life ten times worse." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Why do people like Camilla, who seem to have it all, engage in bullying?

Harrison tells Haley about the Metaphysical thinkers and their quest to discover whether a person's intentions and desires influence events. Is everything in life a matter of chance? To what extent do we control our own destinies?

The 19th century thinker Charles Peirce believed that it's difficult to change one's identity. Do you agree or disagree? In what ways are the identities of the characters in the story altered as a result of their beliefs and actions?

Haley compares her "defining moment" to that of a character in "Lord of the Flies". Can you think of a defining moment in your own life? How were you changed as a result?

How is Haley's life changed as a result of her interaction with Aunt B, Evan, Harrison, Nora, and Frankie?

Which character(s) were your favorites? Why?

Topics for further study/discussion

The Metaphysical Thinkers (see the book *The Metaphysical Club*) for a detailed account of these men and their philosophies

Group behavior

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Bullies and Bullying/School Violence

Songwriters and songwriting

Journalism and journalists