

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes Guided Reading Questions

Chapter 1

1. Author Chris Crutcher dedicates this book "for all those who finally stand up for themselves." What does this mean to you? What do you think the book will ultimately be about?
2. The story is told from whose point of view? What narrator type is this? How will having this type of narrator effect how we see the book?
3. Re-read pages 1-6 & highlight everything that tells you about Eric (Moby). Make a list of his characteristics.
4. Why do you think Eric seems so preoccupied with his weight and physical appearance? Is this just normal teenager stuff or does it run deeper? Explain.
5. Where is Sarah Byrnes as Chapter 1 unfolds?
6. What is physically wrong with Sarah and how did it happen?
7. What kind of man is Sarah's father?
8. Why does Sarah insist she be called Sarah Byrnes? What does this tell you about her?
9. What is Crispy Pork Rinds? How did it get that name? What does its production by Eric and Sarah tell you about them?

Chapter 2

1. What sort of class is Contemporary American Thought? What do you think it's designed to teach?
2. Why does Eric think the world is a bad place? Do you agree with his reasoning?
3. What euphemism did Sarah make up for what she and Eric share?
4. How does Sarah handle her fight with Dale? What does this tell you about her? What does this tell you about how severe a problem she must face in the hospital now?
5. Re-read page 29. What kind of friendship do Eric and Sarah have? What does it mean to Eric? What does he mean when he says he needs "to be important to her too?"