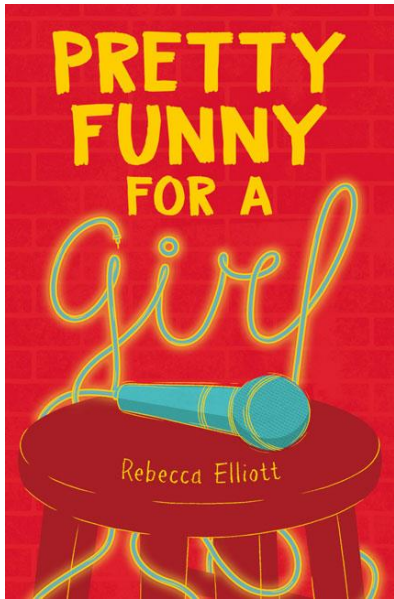




PEACHTREE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Pretty Funny for a Girl

Written by Rebecca Elliott

ABOUT THE BOOK

Haylah Swinton is an ace best friend, a loving daughter, and an incredibly patient sister to a four-year-old nutcase of a brother. Best of all, she's pretty confident she's mastered making light of every situation—from her mom's new boyfriend to unsolicited remarks on her plus-sized figure. Haylah's learning to embrace all of her curvy parts and, besides, she has a secret: one day, she'll be a stand-up comedian star.

So when impossibly cool and “thirstalicious” Leo reveals he's also into comedy, Haylah jumps at the chance to ghostwrite his sets. But is Leo as interested in returning the favor? Even though her friends warn her of Leo's intentions, Haylah's not ready to listen—and she might just be digging herself deeper toward heartbreak. If Haylah's ever going to step into the spotlight, first she'll need to find the confidence to put herself out there and strut like the boss she really is.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Haylah initially embraces the nickname “Pig” that her classmates give her. Why do you think she does this instead of ignoring it all together? How do you think this affects how she views herself?
2. Discuss the role that comedy plays in Haylah's story. How does it shape her reality? How does it affect her relationship with her family? How does it make her appear to strangers?
3. How would you describe the dynamic between Haylah and her friends? Are Chloe and Kas truly supportive of Haylah? Is Haylah a supportive friend? Why or why not?
4. Haylah appears confident in her body and comedic ability, but when she meets Leo, she quickly loses all self-confidence. Why do you think Leo makes her feel this way?
5. When Leo confronts Haylah about slipping jokes into his locker, he asks her to help him win a comedy competition by writing more jokes for him. How would you handle Leo's proposition? Can you blame Haylah for falling under Leo's spell?
6. Have you ever been in a situation where you believed someone liked you, but it wound up being unrequited? If so, how did you handle it? What would you do if the situation was reversed?
7. Have you ever been in a situation where your friends didn't like the person you were dating? If so, how did you handle it? If not, what would you do if this happened to you?
8. Besides being Haylah's love interest, why is Leo important to Haylah's story? Do you think Haylah would have changed without her relationship with Leo? Why or why not?
9. Why is it easier for Haylah to write jokes for Leo instead of performing them herself?
10. Have you ever liked someone so much you were willing to sacrifice your own goals in order to be with them? If so, why did you do it? If not, what would you tell someone in this situation?
11. What are some early clues in Leo's behavior that suggest he's taking advantage of Haylah? What finally makes Haylah realize that Leo was only using her for jokes?

12. Why is Haylah so against her mom dating Ruben? Is her reasoning justified? Can you relate to Haylah's reaction?
13. Haylah blames others when she's unhappy instead of taking responsibility for her actions. How does this behavior impact the people who care about her?
14. Do you believe Haylah deserves all the forgiveness she receives from her family and friends? Why or why not?
15. Why is it necessary for Haylah to ultimately ditch her old nickname?
16. Why is it important for Haylah to lose the competition? Would her growth as a character be different if she had won? What about her relationships with her friends and family?
17. Imagine if Haylah's and Leo's paths cross again after the competition. How would their relationship be different?
18. Haylah eventually has to learn to love herself and embrace everything that makes her unique. Describe a situation when you struggled to embrace your insecurities.

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