

Fly On The Wall
Discussion Guide
Grades 4 - 6

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about martial arts and mandarin and terms that correspond
- Frontload vocabulary (see vocabulary list)

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

Pages 1 - 50

- Why does Henry “need this victory”?
- What does Henry mean when he says “it’s much better to not be odd alone”?
- What happened when Henry went to bed?
- What was Henry feeling when she says “I’d rather now overflow or POP! or BOOM!”?
- What does NRFF stand for? Why is Pheeb’s this?
- Why did Pheeb’s agree to help Henry?
- What happened when Henry got home from Singapore last December?
- Explain a benefit of being a fly on the wall. Why?
- How did Pheeb’s treat Henry once Jie left?

Pages 51 - 100

- How does Henry compare his family to tattoo’s? What type of figurative language did he use?
- What does Henry want from his dad?
- What influence does the blog “Fly On The Wall” have at school? Who runs it? What is its purpose?
- Why did Henry say Popo had an F grade in technology?
- Explain Henry’s family dynamic.
- What happened at Pheeb’s party?

Pages 101 - 150

- Describe Henry’s journey to and at the airport.
- What did Henry decide to change at the airport? Why do you think he did this?
- What’s Henry’s take on poetry?
- What were some of Henry’s consequences for being late to his flight?
- What are some similarities and differences between Nor and Henry?

Fly On The Wall
Discussion Guide
Grades 4 - 6

Pages 151 - 200

- Explain the idiom “Frog in the well.”
- Why did Henry refer to himself as a “murderer of conversations”?
- Who did Henry find on the flight? What happened?

Pages 201 - 250

- Who did Henry refer to as “getting lost in her glare” and what does that mean?
- Who did Henry go to for help?
- What plan did they come up with? Does it work?
- How does Henry view himself? Why did he create the Fly on the Wall?
- What happened when Henry went to the bathroom?

Pages 251 - 300

- How did Henry buy time with his mom finding out?
- Why do you think Tim’s making Henry hangout with him?
- Compare and contrast Henry and Tim.
- Why did Tim not tell Principal Trang the truth?

Pages 300 - 336

- Why do you think Pheeb’s won’t be sworn sisters with Henry again?
- What did Dad mean when he said he wished Henry wasn’t born?
- Why did Jie help Henry?
- Who was the Frog in the Well?
- How did Dad treat Henry?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- **Time = Parts*:** In narrative nonfiction stories, the piece will have an overall topic with subtopics. Think of each time period and ask “What’s this part mostly about?” “What’s the first part?” Use the chapters to help figure out the parts. What seems to be the main idea?
- **The Influences on Character*:** Consider all the influences on the character - the problem(s) the character is facing, the other characters with who he or she comes in contact, and the setting of the story. Notice how the character interacts and reacts to these different forces. What effect(s) do characters, setting, and problems have on how the character acts earlier and later in the story?

Fly On The Wall
Discussion Guide
Grades 4 - 6

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.