



Bee Bakshi and the Gingerbread Sisters by Emi Pinto

# Educator's Guide— Discussion Questions





**1. Bee wants to go to the Betsy Chillers amusement park, but instead she has to spend the week with her family at a cottage.**

- a) Why does Bee feel like going to the cottage is unfair? How do her feelings about this change by the end of the week?
- b) Tell me about a time you felt like something was unfair, but then changed your mind? Why did you change your mind?
- c) What does it mean to take someone or something for granted? Do you think it was unreasonable of Bee to feel upset in the first place?

**2. Bee is embarrassed to hand out cookies to the neighbors and invite them to her mother's party. Instead, she hides them across the lake and lies about it.**

- a) Why was Bee embarrassed? Why was it wrong of Bee to hide the cookies?
- b) What do the cookies represent / what are they a symbol of?
- c) Bee's actions hurt many people. What could Bee have done differently? What would you have done if you were in her shoes?

**3. Bee's mom makes peach pickle for the party, but Bee steals a jar when she finds out that it can repel the eerie loons.**

- a) Why did Bee's mom get upset when she found out Bee took a jar of her pickle?
- b) What are some things Bee could have done instead of taking the jar without asking?
- c) What is a family tradition of yours? Share with the class and explain its importance and what it means to you.



## Communicating Feelings



**4. Lucas always wears blue goggles on his head and has his ginger cat named Albus perched on his shoulders.**

- a) Why do you think he wears the goggles? What are the goggles a symbol of?
- b) Why do you think Lucas gives Bee his goggles at the end of the book?
- c) Who is Albus the cat really?

**5. At the end of the story, Bee and her family have a celebration for Granny.**

- a) What was the celebration about?
- b) Why do you think Bee was the only one who could see Granny?
- c) How does your family remember people/pets who have passed away? How are their memories honored?
- d) Why does Bee drop the bracelet into the fire? What was the bracelet a symbol of?





**6. Bee is hurt by Kitty's actions.**

- a) If you were in Bee's shoes, what are some actions you would have taken to stop Kitty from being a bully?
- b) Bullying is very dangerous. What are some things your school and classroom is doing to help prevent bullying and make you feel safe?
- c) What are some ways you could make someone new at school feel included?

**7. When Bee first meets Lucas, she sees him running and somersaulting across the market, pretending to catch ghosts.**

- a) Why does Bee not want to be Lucas' friend at first?
- b) How do you think that might have been hurtful to Lucas?
- c) How should Bee have acted instead?
- d) Who else does Bee judge by their appearance? Would the story have unfolded differently if she hadn't?

**8. When Bee sees herself in the mirror above the fireplace in Alina's house, she sees the 'perfect' version of herself.**

- a) Why does Bee wish she looked different? Why is it dangerous to want to change yourself to fit in?
- b) What does it mean to be your authentic self? What does it mean to be confident?
- c) What are some things your school and classroom is doing to make everyone feel safe to be themselves?



## Bullying and Inclusiveness



Emi Pinto is a Canadian writer and Doctorate of Education graduate, who writes everything from middle grade to young adult. She's a huge fan of all things fantasy and spooky and hijinks (hello cute ghosts and awkward witches), and loves to weave her mixed Indian and French-Canadian heritage into her stories (dosa with a side of poutine anyone?). When she isn't reading or writing, you can find her taking long walks in forest trails with her family, looking for fairy doors.

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