

Mrs. Haas' 6th Grade

Summer Reading

A Fish in a Tree

by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

From Goodreads.com - *Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.*

Attached you will find 17 writing prompts, each one related to a section of the book. **Please choose any 10 of these to complete.** After reading each section, immediately respond to the prompt in a complete paragraph. Please be thorough and answer each part of the question. Please write in complete sentences, using correct capitalization and punctuation. You may complete this by hand in the packet or in Google document that you can share with me - ahaas@abramsonline.org. Email me with any questions. Have fun reading; it's a wonderful book!

Name: _____

Fish in a Tree

Writing Prompt #1 (Chapters 1-3)

Using the details in chapters one through three, summarize how Ally feels about herself and why she feels this way. Include text evidence to support your answer. Then describe how you think Mrs. Silver feels about Ally. Include text evidence to support this answer as well.

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #3 (Chapters 7-9)

Predict whether or not you think Mr. Daniels will be a good teacher for Ally. Explain why you think this and use text evidence to support your prediction.

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #4 (Chapters 10-12)

In chapter 10, Ally tells Mr. Daniels, "I think it would be easier to be invisible." Explain why Ally feels this way, using text evidence to support your answer. Then explain whether or not you agree with Ally's statement.

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #5 (Chapters 13-15)

Summarize the brave things that Keisha and Ally did in chapter 13. Be sure to explain why each girl did these brave things. If you were in their class, how would you feel about the brave things Keisha and Ally did? Finally, describe a time that you saw someone in your class (past or present) do something brave.

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #6 (Chapters 16-18)

Explain why Albert wears a shirt that says “Flint” every day. Then explain how you feel about the reason why he likes Flint. Do you agree with what Albert says about being alone? Explain why or why not.

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #8 (Chapters 22-24)

Summarize what Ally tells the class about her favorite fictional character during chapter 24. Why does she choose this character? How does Mr. Daniels feel about this? How do Ally's classmates respond to the character she talks about? If you had to tell your class about your favorite fictional character, who would you choose and why?

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #10 (Chapters 28-30)

In chapter 29, Mr. Daniels tells Ally that a wise man once said, "If you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its whole life thinking that it's stupid."

What does this mean and why is Mr. Daniels saying this to Ally in chapter 29?

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Writing Prompt #11 (Chapters 31-33)

In chapter 31, Mr. Daniels tells Ally about his plan to help her read better. At the end of the chapter, the text states that Ally is, "...filled with fear and happiness and questions. But mostly I'm filled with hope." Explain why Ally feels fear. Then explain why she feels happy. What questions could she have? Finally, why is she hopeful and why is this feeling the strongest? Use text evidence from anywhere in the book to support your answers.

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #12 (Chapters 34-36)

Summarize what made Ally get angry at Mr. Daniels, then what caused her to forgive him. Finally, give your opinion about whether or not Mr. Daniels is a good teacher. Use text evidence to support your opinion.

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #13 (Chapters 37-39)

Before the class votes for the class president, why does Ally think she has no chance to win? But Ally is surprised when she receives more votes than Shay and becomes class president. Why do you think most of Ally's classmates voted for her? Use text evidence to support your answer.

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #14 (Chapters 40-42)

Describe how Shay, Albert, and Oliver respond to Mr. Daniels' question in chapter 42. Then explain what this reveals about each of these three characters. Finally, explain which of them you would most like to be friends with and why.

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #15 (Chapters 43-45)

Summarize how the shirts that Ally and Keisha wear to school in chapter 43 support Albert. Why do they feel the need to support Albert in this way? Then describe a time that you have done something to support a friend or family member in his/her time of need.

Name: _____

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Writing Prompt #16 (Chapters 46-48)

Summarize Mr. Daniels' lesson and homework assignment in chapter 47. What is the purpose of the lesson and the homework? Use text evidence to support your answers.
