

The Summer I Saved the World...in 65 Days

Discussion Questions

1. Does doing good really do any good? We hear so much about paying it forward and doing random acts of kindness, yet there seem to be many problems and much strife in our world. Do small acts of kindness make a difference? Are they helping make our world a better place?
2. Do other people always perceive a kind effort as someone intends? Could people take something the wrong way, like Mrs. Millman?
3. Are random acts of kindness more for ourselves or others? Does it make a difference if others recognize the efforts we do, and how does that impact our behavior? Are we more motivated when we can tell other people what we've done, like with the ice bucket challenge?
4. Nina feels strongly about doing her good deeds anonymously. Why was that important to her? How would the story have been different if Nina wasn't anonymous about the good deeds?
5. What was the significance of the neighborhood setting being a cul-de-sac?
6. Do you have any Simple Truths you'd like to share?
7. What (or who) did the fox represent?
8. Why does Nina bond so strongly with Thomas? What is the "evil" both of them see in the cul-de-sac?
9. What is your impression of Jorie? Do you think Jorie's and Nina's friendship will continue in high school?
10. Was there really a ghost in the Dixon house?