



Discussion Questions for *The Girl Who Heard Colors* by Marie Harris

Teachers, please use and adapt these questions to fit the needs of your classroom.

The questions are inspired by Stephanie Harvey and Anne Goudvis's *Strategies that Work*, and allow for practice with the following reading strategies:

Making Connections
Questioning
Visualizing
Inferring
Determining Importance
Synthesizing

Pre-Reading Questions

- Look at the cover. How do you think the girl can hear colors? (Inferring)
- What are some sounds you hear right now? (Making Connections)

During Reading Questions

- Is there something you can do that most other people can't? How does this make you feel? (Making Connections)
- Why do you think the author used metaphors, such as "...the children sounded as gold and brown as the leaves on the trees?" (Determining Importance)
- Why did Jillian cover her ears and squeeze her eyes shut when the musician came? (Determining Importance)
- I wonder why the ability to hear colors is called synesthesia. (Questioning)
- How do you think synesthesia looks to Jillian? (Visualizing—ask this question before turning to the blue page, and then again on the blue page—are the colors moving around? How do you see the movie in your mind?)

Post-Reading Questions

- What do you think the theme is for this story? (Inferring)
- What do you think the author's purpose was when writing this book? (Inferring)
- What are the five senses? After reading this book, would you argue that there are more than five senses? Why or why not? (Synthesizing)