



Discussion Questions

Key Stages 4 & 5

Themes: Hidden Disability Representation | Relationships | Friendships |
Identity | Ostomy Bags

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SCAN ME

About the Book

'Come along with me on this sh!tty ride or bail out now. It's your choice . . .'

When Freya collapses and wakes up with a temporary ileostomy bag on her stomach, her dreams of the perfect summer go down the toilet. Instead of partying in the Algarve, she's packed off to 'Poo Camp' - a place for kids with bowel disease to 'bond'.

And things can only get worse. Someone has started calling her 'Sh!t Bag' . . . and it's catching on. Freya decides to live up to the nickname, raging at her friends, her ex and the world. Only her campmate Chris seems to see past her new attitude . . .

Can Freya get her sh!t together or will she end up with just her bag by her side?

A fresh, fierce and funny story about what happens when life literally goes to sh!t.

Discussion Questions

- 'SH!T BAG features a main character, Freya, who has a temporary ileostomy bag. Why is representation in books important?
- 'I told you. I go by Sh!t Bag now. Only address me as Sh!t Bag.' Consider how this term is used throughout the book, by other characters and by Freya herself. Does it have a positive or negative connotation, and does that change throughout the book?
- 'That's how you poo right now. Into a bag. What every girl dreams of!' How does the author use humour to describe Freya's situation? What is the impact on you as a reader?
- Freya's parents have witnessed their daughter go through a major medical procedure and struggle to accept her ileostomy bag. Discuss how each of her parents handle this, making comparisons and identifying differences.
- Over the course of the story, Freya's perspective of life with an ostomy bag changes: "An ostomy bag can save your life . . . but I might keep mine because it saves my lifestyle. It's my choice." What are some of the positives that ostomy bags can bring to someone's life?
- There is a clear division in the book between Freya's experiences at camp and her return to school after camp. Why do you think the author chose to include both experiences? What insight do they offer the reader?
- Freya and Suriya have a complicated friendship. Give examples of ways Suriya has been both a good and bad friend to Freya'.
- What attributes do you think make Freya's relationship with Chris a healthier one than her relationship with Lockie?



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