

MEETING #4: COMING TOGETHER AS FRIENDS & READERS

1. Munch and Mingle



20-30 minutes

Materials = snacks

Give 20-30 minutes for catching up. When it's time to start the discussion, make sure everyone is seated in a way that they can see everyone else.

2. Survey Says - Apologies



45 minutes

Materials = none

By a show of thumbs (thumbs up if yes, down if no), the host asks the group: Are apologies difficult to make? Without comment, everyone shows her answer. Take a moment to look around. Then, give an opportunity to share - if people want - why they answered the way they did.

The host could connect this topic to the story: One of the themes of this story is the power of apologies - giving and receiving them. In order to properly apologize, Flory first must empathize. She imagines being in the situation of the spider she's hurt. Ask the group, why is it important for her to do this? What does Flory feel when the bat apologizes to her?

3. Book Discussion!



45 minutes

Materials = book

Everyone should have her own book handy for reference, plus a copy of or access to this guide for the discussion questions.

Flory is different from the sweet, demure fairies that often appear in children's tales. Flory is strong, even ruthless. She intimidates and bribes a squirrel so he will ferry her around the garden. Young readers might ask what makes Flory act unkind. Considering Flory's motivations might help children build understanding and even empathy for those children who cut in line on the playground.

Flory is a complicated, realistic character. Right alongside her selfish ways, there are wonderful qualities. She's resourceful and smart. She's brave and, ultimately, she learns how to be a loyal, true friend. As Flory forms her first true friendships, our daughters might remember their own first friends. This would be a good time to reflect: **What makes a friendship strong? What makes a good friend? How do friends improve our lives?**

3. Book Discussion!



45 minutes

Materials = book

The Night Fairy Discussion Questions:

How would you describe Flory's personality? Is there anything surprising about her?

What do you think of Flory's relationship with Skuggle? She says she's not sure if they're friends. Would you say they're friends? Why?

Flory puts herself in great danger in order to free the hummingbird and protect her eggs. Why is she determined to do this? What does it show about her?

At the end of the story, Flory says she is happier than she's ever been. How has her life changed for the better? What has she done to become so happy? Think about times when you are happiest. What do you do to make yourself happy?



Book Club Tip: As you discuss the book, using these questions or the questions that your club's members pose, keep your copies of the book handy. One thing that book clubs do to dig deeper into the book is they refer frequently to the book itself. Read your favorite passages out loud to each other. Check the book to find the answer to a question, or find a few lines to support your ideas.

4. Closing



5 minutes

Materials = none

Before saying goodbye, set your dates for the next book club meeting.