

## MEETING #6: PRACTICING LEADERSHIP, TODAY & EVERYDAY

### 1. Munch and Mingle 20-30 minutes Materials = snacks

Give 20-30 minutes for catching up. Before the discussion part of the meeting begins, the girls will have a brief meeting. See the next section for more details.

### 2. Working That Leadership Muscle - Girls Run the Meeting

 5-10 minutes Materials = none

Before the discussion begins, girls should go somewhere private - the kitchen, a bedroom, etc - and make a plan. They'll decide in what order they will share, what roles they will have, and whether they want to first ask a group question or do a group activity.

After this short meeting, the girls and parents gather together again.

### 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.*

Girls will take turns guiding the conversation. The girls might be worried that they won't have enough to say. If that's the case, remind them the idea isn't for them to give a presentation, just for them to provide a starting point. Conversation will grow and develop organically. Parents can show support by responding enthusiastically.

*Book Club Tip: Parents, suppress the urge to jump in and control the discussion at the first sign your daughter is struggling. If your daughter isn't asking for help, it might be because she doesn't need it, yet. Sometimes a person has to wobble a little before she finds her balance! Show that you believe in her abilities by giving her room to practice being a leader in this safe space*

When the girls indicate that they're finished with their planned material, compliment their courage and leadership! This might also be a good time to talk about what it felt like for them to lead the book club conversation. For some girls this might have been a new experience. How did they prepare? How do they feel about their accomplishment? How did it feel for parents to take a more passive role?

Anyone in the group can share additional thoughts or questions about the book. Refer to the ideas below for possible discussion questions.

### *Zita the Spacegirl* Discussion Questions:

1. Zita has a couple of opportunities to leave the planet without Joseph, but she refuses. What does that say about her?
2. Zita acts before she thinks things through (like when she pushes the button that opens the portal in the first place). We often think of impulsivity as a negative thing, but can it ever be a positive trait? Does being impulsive ever help Zita?



## *Zita the Spacegirl* Discussion Questions, Continued:

3. In this story, friendships form when one character offers help to another. In your life, how do you form friendships? What does that first glimmer of friendship look and feel like?
4. Do you think Zita should forgive Piper for his betrayal? Why?

### 4. Closing



5 minutes

Materials = none

We want to hear your book club's plans! Are you going to meet throughout the summer? Reconvene when school starts again? Post on our Book Club Facebook Group to share your experiences, plans, and any other feedback.

Thank you for joining us on this pilot program! It's been great fun to read, think, and learn along with you. Keep checking our emails and social media pages for updates about Girls Leadership programs online and in your area.

Welcome to the sixth month of Girls Leadership Parent & Daughter Book Club!

This year's last book selection is *Zita the Spacegirl* by Ben Hatke.

Zita travels to a strange planet to rescue her friend Joseph, who has been kidnapped by aliens. Along the way, she makes friends who help her in her quest. Leading her crew means developing plans and making spot decisions. It means asking for help and showing compassion to others.

What do you make of this portrait of leadership? As you and your daughter read books, watch TV, and move through the world, notice the variety of leadership styles. What kind of leader are you?

In this meeting and the previous one, girls have the chance to flex their leadership muscles by leading the book discussion. Be on the lookout of other opportunities for your daughter to take on a leadership role. Organizing a game at school, having a hard talk with friends, starting a fundraiser, dreaming up a big plan - those are all potential leadership moments.