



1. Why do you think Via hugged August before she went out to the play?
Via was sorry that she'd been ashamed of him earlier on and that she wasn't going to invite him. She realised that she'd upset him and wanted to make it better. She had also realized herself, after having some time to think, how proud she was of him and how much she loved him (particularly after Daisy died).

2. August was happy to be called Auggie Doggie earlier on in the book. Why is he not now?

August has grown up since the beginning of the book. He's been through experiences that have made him mature and he's no longer happy to be treated like a small child. He's embarrassed by it.

3. Why does August like the play? Does his reason remind you of a detail earlier in the chapter?

Example answer: August likes the play because it's grown-up seeming and makes him feel smarter. It reminds me of where he asked his dad not to call him Auggie Doggie because it made him feel childish.

4. August says he doesn't want to give the ending to the play away to us, but he does! How do you think the play ends? And why do you think Mom and Via are crying?

At the end of the play, the main character, Emily, is dying – she's saying goodbye to everything. Mom and Via will be remembering Daisy dying and perhaps also thinking about how it could have been August that had died. It's an emotional time for Via and she's had a triumph playing the lead, so her emotions are bound to be up. And for Mom, she'll be proud of Via, particularly after their argument earlier in the book.

5. Justin pulls Mr Davenport away to meet his mom. Why? What does this tell you about Justin and about Mr D.?

Mr Davenport was going to make a scene about August's looks – he'd just frozen. Justin had seen this and he didn't want to spoil this moment for Via and her family with someone's poor reaction to August's looks interfering. This shows how much he cares for Via and the family and how sensitive he is to others' feelings.

6. Why do you think that Miranda call August Major Tom?

Miranda was closest to August at the time when he was wearing the spaceman's outfit (Major Tom is a spaceman in a famous song). She's still got a picture of him in her wallet with an astronaut helmet. She remembers those happy times with Via and her family, so uses that nickname for him.

Challenge! This section of the book (p. 228-248) is about forgiveness, reconciliation and

growth. Do you agree? Explain your answer.

A range of possible answers covering Via forgiving her mother for not giving her the attention she wanted; Miranda becoming reconciled with Via; the

growth of the relationship between Via and her mum; Via's growth in maturity regarding others' reactions to August's face; August's desire to be treated in a more grown-up way; Miranda has grown up in that she values genuine people like Via's family rather than people like those in bungalow 32. Mr Davenport is an example of someone who doesn't forgive, in contrast to the main characters.