

WEDGIE & GIZMO

BY SUZANNE SELFORS;
ILLUSTRATED BY BARBARA FISINGER



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

When a bouncy, barky dog and an evil genius guinea pig move into the same house, the laughs are nonstop! Wedgie is so excited, he can't stop barking. He LOVES having new siblings and friends to protect. He LOVES guinea pigs like Gizmo! He also LOVES treats! But Gizmo does not want to share his loyal human servant with a rump-sniffing beast! He does not want to live in a pink Barbie Playhouse. Or to be kissed and hugged by the girl human. Gizmo is an evil genius. He wants to take over the world and make all humans feel his wrath. But first he must destroy his archenemy, Wedgie, once and for all!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are Wedgie and Gizmo and how would you describe them? What information from the story supports your description?
2. Why does Gizmo call himself the Evil Genius? Give examples from the story that show how he attempts to prove this identity.
3. How does Wedgie view his role in the family?
4. Who are the human servants and why are Wedgie and Gizmo moving to a new house?
5. Why is Elliot sad? Why does he get frustrated with Jasmine?
6. Wedgie wears a red cape. What power does Wedgie feel when he wears the cape? Is this power real? Explain.
7. Describe the relationship between Wedgie and Gizmo at the beginning of the story and explain how it changes by the end.
8. Identify one theme in the story and provide evidence that supports the theme. How does the author develop the theme over time?
9. The story has several humorous scenes. Locate one scene that you find humorous and explain the words and phrases that give the story its humor.
10. The chapters are written from Wedgie's and Gizmo's perspective. How might the story be different if chapters were written from Elliot's and Jasmine's perspective? What would be lost from the story if it were written from a human perspective? What might be gained?

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Identify a scene from the story that is written from either Wedgie's or Gizmo's point of view. Rewrite the scene from another character's point of view. Be prepared to discuss how the story changes as a result of your rewrite.

Working with a partner, assume the roles of Gizmo and Wedgie or Elliot and Jasmine. Create a new scene between the two characters and share it in a larger group.



Photo by Tasha Vanasse

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bestselling author, Suzanne Selfors, lives on a mysterious island in the Pacific Northwest where she spends most of her time making-up stories, which is her very favorite thing to do. She has a dog, a cat, and is seriously considering getting an Evil Genius guinea pig. You can visit her at www.suzanneselfors.com