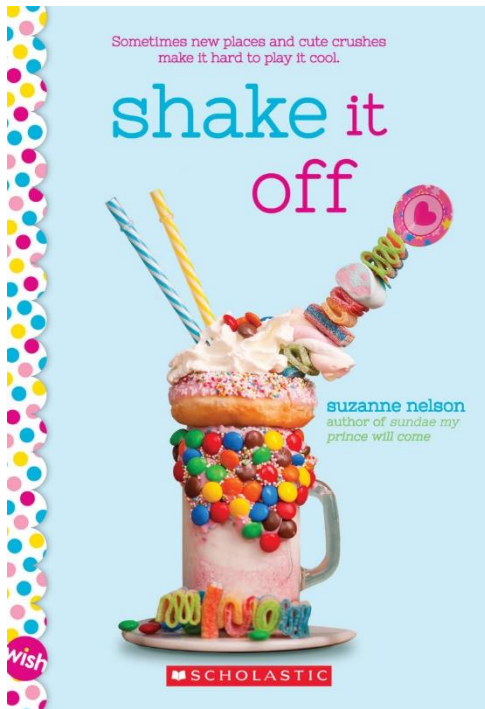

SHAKE IT OFF

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Discussion Questions for SHAKE IT OFF

by Suzanne Nelson

Bria is *not* happy about being stuck on her aunt and uncle’s dairy farm for the summer. Milking cows alongside her cousin Wren? No thanks.

Instead, she sticks to mixing up milkshakes in the creamery, where she starts crafting over-the-top shakes like the ones she loved back home in Chicago. Wren, and the customers, aren’t impressed. Everyone thinks Bria is just a snobby city girl.

There is one person who appreciates the sweet, cold treats: Gabe, her cousins’ cute friend. But with the family business in danger of being sold, can Bria’s shakes make a difference...and will she ever fit into country life?

1. What is Bria’s first week on her aunt and uncle’s farm like? What are her first impressions of the farm?
2. Compare and contrast Bria’s and Wren’s personalities. How are they similar or different? Do you have someone in your family who seems like your opposite in every way? How do you handle your differences and still show how much you care about one another?
3. Have you ever had to stay in a new place where you felt like a “fish out of water”? Describe your experience, and what or who helped you learn to adapt to your new situation.
4. How does Gabe help Bria learn to cope with farm life? How is his way of dealing with Bria’s attitude different from Wren’s? Which way do you think is more effective and why?
5. What does Bria do that gets her into trouble with her cell phone? How does her behavior affect her friendships? What does she learn over the course of the story about the importance of using social media carefully? Have you ever had an experience similar to Bria’s or Jane’s? How did you resolve it?
6. Would you prefer to live in a big city like Chicago or on a farm in the country? Explain why. If Gabe had to move to Chicago, how do you think he would handle his new environment?
7. How does Bria’s outlook on farm life change from the beginning to the end of the story? What or who helps her outlook change?
8. Which character in the book are you the most similar to? Why? Which character are you the most different from? Why?
9. How do you think Bria’s summer experience changed her? Imagine how it might impact her life when she returns to Chicago. What might she do differently or the same?
10. Invent your own “crazy shake” recipe, listing all of your ingredients. Try making the shake with family or friends!