

Discussion Questions for “There’s a Boy in the Girls’ Bathroom”

What themes did you find in the story?

- Friendship (what is friendship?)
- Bullying (who were bullies? What prompted the bullying behavior? How was bullying behavior stopped?)
- Link between self-esteem, behavior & learning
- Inside vs. Outside feelings (when Jeff tells Carla no one wants to sit by Bradley she says, “he may be smiling on the outside, but do you think he’s smiling on the inside?”)

How does each of the following characters behave, and how does his/her behavior influence how people treat him/her?

- Bradley
- Jeff
- Melinda
- Colleen
- Claudia (sister)
- Bradley’s father

At the end of the story, how have each of the following characters changed (& what did each of them learn)?

- Bradley
- Jeff
- Melinda
- Colleen
- Claudia (sister)
- Bradley’s father

Why does Bradley talk to his animals?

Why did Bradley tell Carla such wild stories?

Compare/contrast how Mrs. Ebbel, Bradley’s mom and Carla speak about Bradley

Why did Jeff side with the other boys against Bradley (Ch. 17-18)

Do you think Carla was right when she said Bradley was scared to try because he might try and still fail? (Ch. 19-22)

Why did Jeff act the way he did when girls tried to talk to him? (Ch. 24)

Why did the boys ask Bradley to play basketball with them? (Ch. 33-34)

Have you ever been afraid your friends might stop liking you?

Do you think Carla was a good counselor? Why or why not?

Did the Concerned Parents Organization have good reasons to want Carla dismissed from the school?

How did adults' view of Carla's role differ from kids' view?

Is there a stigma at Lanai about seeing a counselor? Does this book change your view about whether you would want to talk with a counselor?