1. What do you think of the book’s title? How does it relate to the book’s contents? What other title might you choose?

2. If you could hear this same story from another person’s point of view in Optimists Die First, who would you choose?

3. What did you like best about Optimists Die First?

4. Which characters in Optimists Die First did you like best?

5. Which characters in Optimists Die First did you like the least?

6. If you were making a movie of Optimists Die First, who would you cast?

7. Share a favorite quote from Optimists Die First. Why did this quote stand out?

8. What other books by Susin Nielsen have you read? How did they compare to this book?

9. If you got the chance to ask Susin Nielsen one question about Optimists Die First, what would it be?

10. Optimists Die First has different covers in North America and the UK. Which one do you like best?

About the Author

Susin Nielsen got her start feeding cast and crew on the popular television series Degrassi Junior High. They hated her food, but they saw a spark in her writing. Nielsen went on to pen sixteen episodes of the hit TV show. Since then, she has written for many Canadian TV series. Nielsen’s first two young adult novels, Word Nerd and Dear George Clooney: Please Marry My Mom, won critical acclaim and multiple young readers’ choice awards. The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen won the prestigious Governor General’s Literary Award and was named the Canadian Library Association’s Children’s Book of the Year. Most recently, We Are All Made of Molecules won the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children’s Book Award, was shortlisted for the Governor General’s Literary Award, longlisted for the Carnegie Medal, and nominated for the CLA Children’s Book of the Year. Nielsen lives in Vancouver with her family and two extremely destructive cats. Visit her at susinnielsen.com; on Facebook at Susin Nielsen, Author; and on Twitter @susinnielsen.