

***Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen* by Donna Gephart**

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Reading Questions: *Jeopardy Round!*

Who is Not My Dad?

1. How would you describe Olivia?
2. Who is Neil? How does Olivia feel about him?
3. Did Olivia's parents get along?
4. What is Olivia's dad like?

Who is the Boy with Two First Names?

1. Why does Olivia's stomach hurt?
2. How does Olivia treat Neil? Do you think she should be nicer to him?
3. What are the things that Olivia has that she thinks most kids do not have?
4. What do you think happened with Nikki?
5. Who is Tucker Thomas? Why is Olivia worried about him?

What Is the Name of the Fifth Ocean?

1. Where does Tucker live? How does Olivia feel about that?
2. Who is Matt Drescher? How does Tucker act when he is with Matt?

What is the Red Umbrella?

1. Were you surprised when you discovered what happened with Olivia's dad? How would you feel if you were Olivia?
2. Why does Olivia compare herself to the red umbrella?

Who is Phil and Why Doesn't He Wear Pants?

1. What does Olivia notice about Tucker's eyes?
2. Why doesn't Tucker want to go to the baseball game with his dad?

What is Getting Let Off the Hook?

1. How does Olivia describe her social life on page 42?
2. What does Olivia's mom forget to ask?

What Is the Ugly Black Sock?

1. Who is DJ?
2. What happened when Olivia answered most of the questions during the boys-against-girls Brain Blaster competition?
3. What does Olivia see on her Mom's bed? Why does it bother her so much?

What Constitutes an Emergency?

1. How does Olivia feel about Stella? Why?
2. What happens when Olivia calls her dad on pages 55- 56?

What is Tucker Holding?

1. Do you think Olivia is jealous of Nikki? Why?
2. How is Olivia like the red umbrella? How is Tucker?

Who is Acting Like Cro-Magnon Man?

1. How did Dad's gambling affect Olivia?
2. Do you think the divorce is easier for Olivia or Charlie to handle? Why?
3. What does Tucker invite Olivia to do? Why does she tell him no? Do you think she wanted to go?
4. Do you think Olivia likes Tucker? Explain.

What's So Important About Getting on Kid's Week?

1. Why do you think Tucker can make fun of Olivia one minute and be nice to her the next minute?
2. What do you think of Neil? Why?
3. What exciting news does Olivia tell Tucker on page 75?
4. What wonderful thing does Olivia remember about *Jeopardy!*? Why is this location important?

What is Patience?

1. What does Olivia realize about Charlie on page 78?
2. Is Olivia a good sister to Charlie?

What's the Significance of Twenty-four Years?

1. Why is Olivia waiting up for her mom?
2. Why do you think Olivia's mom is crying?

Who Is a Poet and Doesn't Know It?

1. Why doesn't Olivia want to ask Neil about her mom at breakfast?

2. How does Neil act when Olivia tells him about Kids Week?

What's So Funny, Tucker Thomas?

1. What does Tucker tease Olivia about?
2. Were you surprised that he was teasing her after being so nice to her? Explain.

Why is Charlie Watching TV on a School Day?

1. Why does Olivia pretend that she doesn't know anything about Bolivia at lunch? Do you think she should have done that?
2. What is unusual about Charlie watching TV after school?

What's Going on with Mom?

1. Do you think Olivia or Neil should be the one to comfort Olivia's mom? Explain.
2. Why do you think Olivia's mom needs time alone?
3. Who forgets to call? How does Olivia feel when that happens?

Who's the Mom Here?

1. Do you think Olivia should wait to discuss Kids Week until her mom comes out of the bedroom? Explain.
2. Do you think Olivia is more worried about Kids Week or her mom? Explain.

Is No News Bad News?

1. Do you think Olivia's mom has pink eye? Explain.
2. Whom is Olivia going to ask to register her for Kids Week? Do you think that is a good plan?

What's the Worst Phone Call?

1. What does Tucker write in his note to Olivia? How does Olivia react? What do you think of Tucker's note?
2. What happens when Olivia calls her dad?

Are We In Jeopardy?

1. What news does Olivia's mom share?
2. How do you think Olivia handles the news?

What's In the Red Envelope?

1. Who registers Olivia for Kids' Week?
2. How does Olivia feel about Neil on page 123?

Reading Questions: *Double Jeopardy Round!*

What's the Worst Way to Save Money?

1. What disaster happens when Olivia tries to log on to take the Jeopardy test?
2. Do you think Olivia should have tried taking the test at the library?

Knock, Knock, Who's There?

1. What did Olivia do to Tucker in the lunchroom? Why?
2. Do you think Olivia misunderstood Tucker's note? Why?
3. Why do you think Tucker is being so mean to Olivia?
4. Where does Olivia take the test for Kids Week?

What Do More Than Ten Thousand Kids Have in Common?

1. How will Olivia find out if she has been selected for the audition?
2. How did Olivia do on the test for *Jeopardy!*?

How Can Olivia Afford a Trip to California and Normal Toilet Paper?

1. Why do you think Olivia's dad is slurring his words?
2. How does Olivia's dad say he is going to pay for her to visit him? Does Olivia believe him?

Did They Call?

1. How is Olivia doing in geography?
2. What does Olivia hear her mom and Neil saying?
3. What would Olivia do if she won money on *Jeopardy!*? What would you do if you won a lot of money?
4. How is the relationship between Neil and Olivia changing?

What Do Wreaths Have to Do with Anything?

1. How are Olivia's mom and Neil making extra money?
2. What exciting news does Olivia's mom reveal on page 159?
3. What is keeping the moment from being 100% perfect?

What is "I Don't Know What"?

1. Why does Olivia's mom buy her new clothes?
2. What do you think happened during the Hula Hoop Incident?

What's Not Under the Christmas Tree?

1. What does Olivia's dad get her for Christmas? What does he get Nikki?
2. Do you think Olivia should feel happy or sad on Christmas? Explain.

How Many Keys Are on A Piano?

1. How does Olivia try to relax on the drive to Washington, D.C.?
2. How does Olivia feel before the audition? How would you feel?

What's Happening for the First Time Since Mom Lost Her Job?

1. Do you think Olivia will have a high-enough score to move forward? Why?
2. Why is going out for lunch such a special treat?

Who's On the List (Part I)?

1. According to pages 177-178, how have Olivia's mom, Neil, Charlie, and Tucker helped Olivia?
2. What does Olivia realize about her Dad during her lunch with her mom?

Who's On the List (Part II)?

1. Describe Melissa.
2. What does Olivia realize about Melissa?

What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?

1. What does Olivia say she wants to be when she grows up? Do you think it is a good answer?
2. Do you think Olivia did well during her interview? Explain.

Who Is Not Alex Trebek?

1. Describe the two contestants that Olivia faces in the mock game.
2. What does Olivia **not** want to do?

Who Controls the Buzzer?

1. What can make the difference between winning and losing?
2. How does Olivia perform during the mock game?

What Are the Odds?

1. Why does Olivia describe the odds of being chosen as "nearly impossible"?
2. Does Olivia's dad seem excited about her audition? Explain.

What's In the Envelope?

1. Why do you think Tucker gave Olivia a valentine?
2. Why do you think Nikki doesn't want to talk to Olivia?

What Does Olivia Have to Tell Dad?

1. Were you surprised by the letter Olivia receives from Fed Ex? Explain.

2. How does Olivia feel after reading the letter?

Who's Not Thrilled About Olivia's News

1. How does Olivia's dad respond to her news? How does Nikki react?
2. Do you think Olivia will be able to work things out with Nikki? Explain.

Reading Questions: *Final Jeopardy!* Round

Which Planet Is Larger Than One Thousand Earths?

1. How do Olivia's mom, Neil, Charlie, and Tucker help Olivia study?
2. How does Olivia's dad help her?

Will Olivia Ever Be Ready?

1. How has Olivia's relationship with Tucker changed?
2. Why do you think Olivia is nervous about seeing Dad, Stella, and Nikki?

Did You Know About Sharks Teeth?

1. What does Olivia wonder about Neil during the plane ride?
2. What does Charlie give Olivia? Why?

Who is Olivia Bean?

1. According to page 231 and 232, what does Olivia overhear her mom saying to her dad?
2. Why is Olivia's stomach getting tighter?

How Many Head Hairs Do We Lose Each Day?

1. Did you think that Nikki and Stella would go to the hotel restaurant? Explain.
2. How does Olivia feel when her dad hugs her?

What Question is Too Hard to Ask?

1. What does Nikki reveal about her life in California and why she has been avoiding Olivia?
2. Do you sympathize with Nikki or do you think she is too cruel to Olivia? Explain.

Who Wants Ice Cream?

1. What does Olivia think about what kind of parent her father is to her, Charlie, and Nikki? Do you agree with her?
2. What does Olivia's mom give to Olivia's dad? Do you think he will use it? Explain.
3. Why is Olivia disappointed when she doesn't go for ice cream with her dad?

Who Is NOT the Red Umbrella?

1. How are the other fifteen kids in the van different from Melissa?
2. Why isn't Olivia "the red umbrella" on the bus with the other kids?

What is \$15,000?

1. Why is Olivia determined to win?
2. Do you think Olivia is putting too much pressure on herself? Explain.

Who Is the Hula Hoop Queen?

1. What happened at the fifth grade talent show?
2. What did Tucker mean when he called Olivia the Hula Hoop Queen at the talent show?
3. Who is not in the audience of *Jeopardy!*?

What Animal is Found in the Swamps of Florida?

1. Do you think Olivia will win *Jeopardy!*?
2. What are the three scores before *Final Jeopardy!*?

What Is Olivia Bean Really Good At?

1. What is the outcome of *Jeopardy!*?
2. Were you surprised by the outcome? Explain.

Who's Sworn to Secrecy?

1. Do you think Olivia should have told her dad about the game's outcome? Explain.
2. What does Olivia finally understand about her dad on page 273?
3. Why does Olivia ask her mom to get in touch with Nikki?
4. Do you like the ending of the book? Explain.

Vocabulary Words

1. Furrowed
2. Dismissively
3. Quell
4. Pompous
5. Discombobulated
6. Demeanor
7. Rigorous
8. Bionic
9. Populous
10. Conceit
11. Pivots
12. Deluge
13. Reverberates
14. Pry
15. Donning

16. Indignantly
17. Measly
18. Vile
19. Putrid
20. Acronym
21. Snarky
22. Deficiency
23. Clench
24. Vigorously
25. Roiled
26. Lobbed
27. Constrict
28. garbled
29. Archenemy
30. Grudgingly
31. Tentatively
32. Pang
33. Frazzle
34. Trounce
35. Jangle
36. Snide
37. Strewn
38. Gargantuan
39. Acclimated
40. Inconsequential

Discussion Questions

1. Olivia thinks that Tucker is mean to her whenever he is with Mark. Do you think that Tucker is putting on a show for Mark? Do you think some people act differently when they are surrounded by certain friends?
2. On page 48, Charlie says, "It's fun to be smart." Do you agree? Is there ever a time when being smart does not seem fun? Explain.
3. Regarding the audition, Olivia's mom says, "You'll be judged not only on your ability to answer questions, Olivia, but also on your ability to be bright and friendly." Do you think that that advice applies to other situations? Explain why or why not.
4. Which characters demonstrate the qualities of a good friend? Explain.
5. Overall, is Olivia a good friend to others?
6. How has Olivia changed from the beginning of the story?

Activities

1. On page 38, Olivia remembers a special event that she shared with her dad. What is one of your favorite family memories? Write a personal narrative describing that special day.
2. When Olivia is asked what she wants to be when she grows up, her brain blanks. What do you want to be when you grow up? Go to <http://www.bls.gov/k12/build.htm> and find out more about careers that match your interests.
3. Throughout *Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen*, author Donna Gephart uses several similes. A simile is a comparison between two unlike things. A simile uses the words “like” or “as” to make a comparison. For example, on page 33, Olivia says that she feels like a red umbrella, which was an object that did not go with the others on an episode of *Sesame Street*. Think of 5 objects that are like you in some way. Draw these objects, or find pictures in magazines or on the Internet. Make a collage of these items and write a short essay or poem about how you are like these items.