***Fish in a Tree***

By Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Directions: Look at the questions for each meeting. Pay attention to the number of questions you are being asked to answer! Answer all questions in your CLOSE READING NOTEBOOK! Label your questions with the meeting number and the date. These answers must be AT LEAST TWO COMPLETE SENTENCES to count. (May Do: You can answer more questions than what is required for extra credit!)

**Meeting 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – Due Monday, May 20th)**

Directions: Choose FOUR questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. What have you learned about Ally so far? Prove your ideas with evidence from the text.
2. Why was Ally’s teacher upset with her when she gave her the card with the yellow flower? What does this say about Ally? What does this say about her teacher?
3. How would you describe Shay? Give at least one example from the text to prove your idea.
4. What do we learn about Ally’s family in this section?
5. Ally tells her mother that everyone hates her and her mom doesn’t believe it. How do you think this makes Ally feel? Explain your thinking.
6. Do you think Ally’s mom knows how bad things are at school? What makes you think this?

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**Meeting 2 (Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 – Due Tuesday, May 21st)**

Directions: Answer ALL FIVE questions below in your close reading notebook.

1. In this section, Travis tells Ally to not have “low expectations” for herself. Do you think she does? Explain your thinking.
2. Describe Mr. Daniels using details from the story.
3. What does Ally think about Mr. Daniels so far? Explain.
4. In this section, Ally makes a decision about how she treats another character that seems to weigh on her mind. Why do you think Ally participated in the hurtful discussion with Albert?
5. We have gotten quite a bit of evidence that Ally just doesn’t fit in with her classmates. What are some examples the author has used to show the reader this fact?

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**Meeting 3 (Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 – Due Thursday, May 23rd)**

Directions: Answer ALL FOUR questions below in your close reading notebook.

1. There are many very key events in this section. Pick what you think are the three most important things that happened. For each event, explain why you think it is so important to the story.
2. There are many words that can be used to describe Ally. Pick one character “trait” that you believe fits her well. Explain why you believe this. Make sure you use evidence from the text.
3. Ally and her friends are called “misfits” by Shay and her friends. Do you agree with this? Explain your thinking.
4. Ally continues to try to find ways to get out of reading and writing. What do you think Mr. Daniels should do with her?

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**Meeting 4 (Chapters 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 – Due Tuesday, May 28th)**

Directions: Answer ALL FOUR questions below in your close reading notebook

1. Ally, Keisha, and Albert are having a discussion about the bullies that are beating him up. Explain how the different characters are feeling about this.
2. Do you think Ally is changing as a character? Explain your thinking and give examples from the text.
3. Writing a summary is a way to take a larger piece of text (like a chapter) and reduce it to a few sentences that capture the most important ideas and messages from the text. Write a summary of one of the chapters in this section where you capture these important elements without retelling every little detail.
4. At the end of this section, Ally states that she will never accept an award that she doesn’t deserve. Does she deserve the poetry award? Explain.

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**Meeting 5 (Chapters 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 – Due Friday, May 31st)**

Directions: Answer ALL FIVE questions below in your close reading notebook

1. At the end of chapter 26, Keisha states, “One thing’s for sure. We’re not gonna fit in, but we’re gonna stand out.” What do you think she means by this? Explain your thinking.
2. Give one example of a “turning point” in the book so far. Why do you think it was so important that it changed the directions of the book?
3. Make a prediction about what will happen with Ally if she begins to meet with Mr. Daniels after school to play chess. Support your inference with details from the text.
4. Mr. Daniels is trying to help Ally see that she may struggle with learning, but she is in actuality very smart. Give examples that we have seen through this book that prove Ally IS, indeed, an intelligent girl.
5. This section ends with Ally having many different feelings about school. Pick two of the emotions she is feeling and explain how they are important to Ally at this part of the story.

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**Meeting 6 (Chapters 32, 33, and 34 – Due Monday, June 3rd)**

Directions: Answer ALL THREE questions below in your close reading notebook.

1. Explain why you think the author included the part where Mr. Daniels took the word “impossible” and ripped off the “im” for Ally.
2. What more have you learned about Albert and how he handles his not-so-perfect life?
3. Good readers are constantly using what they know to make predictions. What predictions do you have about what could be coming up for Ally and her friends? What evidence from the text is there to support these thoughts?

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**Meeting 7 (Chapters 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41– Due Tuesday, June 4th)**

Directions: Answer ALL FOUR questions below in your close reading notebook.

1. This book is told through the eyes of the main character, Ally. Take a minute to think about Shay’s point of view. What do you think she **really** thinks about Ally? Why might she act the way she does?
2. Ally is definitely changing as a character. Think of one other character you feel is changing and explain why you believe this. Use examples from the text to prove your thinking.
3. In recent chapters, Shay’s attempts to be mean to Ally keep backfiring. What do you think the other classmates think about both Ally and Shay? Explain your thinking with evidence from the text.
4. Do you think Ally will be a good class president? What makes you think this?

**Meeting 8 (Chapters 42, 43, 44, and 45 – Due Friday, June 7th)**

Directions: Answer BOTH questions in your close reading notebook.

1. Ally is becoming a more assertive character. Give a few examples of how she is showing her new confidence in herself.
2. Chapter 45 is called “My Brother’s Question.” Why do you think this is an important chapter in the book? Give examples from the text.

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**Meeting 9 (Chapters 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51 – Due Monday, June 10th)**

Directions: Answer ALL SIX questions below in your close reading notebook.

1. Why does Mr. Daniels want to teach the class about the group of famous people who had dyslexia? Do you think this was a good idea? Explain.
2. Give an example of a time in the book where a character showed “grit.” Explain why you selected this example.
3. Chapter 48 ends with a pile of friendship bracelets on Shay’s desk. What do you think this means? Why might it be important?
4. Albert, Keisha, and Ally have most certainly developed a strong friendship. Give examples from the text that supports that statement and demonstrates their bond.
5. Ally makes an effort to go talk to Shay, even though her efforts aren’t rewarded. How have Ally’s feelings about Shay changed?
6. Did you like the end of this book? Explain your answer.