

## Discussion Questions- Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie

### *Chapter 1:*

1. What does Steven choose to write about for the most annoying thing?
2. How much younger is Jeffery than Steven?
3. What one item is Jeffery not allowed to touch?
4. Who is the narrator of the story? In what person is the story written?
5. What was Jeffery doing with Steven's drumsticks?
6. Name 2 ingredients in dangerous pie?
7. What extracurricular activity is Steven involved in?
8. What is Steven's nickname in his club?
9. Who is Steven's crush?
10. Describe Annette Watson.

### *Chapter 2:*

1. What is the date Steven will never forget?
2. What is "moatmeal?"
3. Explain the events that happen while Jeffery and Steven are making "moatmeal."

*Chapter 3:*

1. What does Steven eat to help his breath?
2. What does O.P. stand for?
3. What disease was Jeffery just diagnosed with?

*Chapter 4:*

1. Who drives Steven to the hospital when his brother is born?
2. What special responsibility does Steven's grandpa give him in the car?
3. What city are they taking Jeffery to?
4. What is Steven's mom's job?

*Chapter 5:*

1. What does Steven decide to do for Jeffery at the beginning of chapter 5?
2. What is the first thing Steven notices about Jeffery in the morning?
3. What animal does Jeffery think he looks like?
4. Does Steven tell Annette about Jeffery's cancer?

5. What does Steven do to keep his mind off of things?
6. Who is Steven's crush?
7. Who is the band "geek" that has a crush on Steven?
8. What is the name of Steven's drum teacher?
9. Who is the only one that notices Steven isn't himself?
10. What does Steven consider to be his "communication" with the outside world?
11. On the 6<sup>th</sup> day, who does Steven address his journal to? (Name all of the people)

*Chapter 6:*

1. What was Jeffery doing in the car when they pulled up?
2. What book on tape did Jeffery's parents get him to listen to on vacation?
3. What did Jeff get Steven as a "souvenir?"
4. What does Steven suggest to try to cheer Jeffery up?
5. What happens when Jeffery eats the Tic Tac?
6. What does Steven's dad do for a job?

7. What risk of cancer does Jeffery have?
8. What idea does Steven's mom suggest that he gets angry about?
9. What is the new activity Steven decides to pursue at the end of the chapter?

*Chapter 7:*

1. Name two things Steven promises to do/not do to help make Jeffery better.
2. What sound does Steven hear on his break from math class?
3. What is Julliard?
4. What is the name of the game they create out of people visiting the house?
5. What does Steven call himself when he is getting dressed for the dance?
6. What color shirt does Steven finally decide to wear?
7. What is the significance of the shirt Steven selects?
8. What does Steven compare the dance to?

*Chapter 8:*

1. Why does Steven's mom come to pick him up early from the dance?
2. What is EMLA?
3. Whose hand does Jeffery ask to hold?
4. What caused Jeffery's fever?
5. What city does Jeffery get sent to?
6. Why does Steven's mom really start to cry while on the phone?
7. When Jeffery wakes up the next day, what is the first question he asks Steven?
8. Why are they going to Philadelphia?
9. What superhero does Steven turn himself into?

*Chapter 9:*

1. What is the first thing Steven thinks about at the beginning of the chapter?
2. Steven compares Annette's actions to what object?
3. Why does Steven get called to the office?

4. What is the name of the guidance counselor?
5. What does the guidance counselor offer Steven?
6. What is the name of Steven's English teacher?
7. Where does Mrs. Galley escort Steven to?
8. Who told Mrs. Palma about Steven's brother?
9. Who does Steven THINK told Mrs. Palma about the situation?

*Chapter 10:*

1. Steven says that Jeffery's situation has turned him into a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What physical change has now happened to Jeffery?
3. What effects have the steroids had on Jeffery (Name both)?
4. True/False Steven finishes his make-up work.
5. What set back does Steven have in this chapter?
6. Where does Steven get sent to stay?
7. What food does Steven want more than ever?
8. Who does Steven call?

9. What sight does Steven see at the end of the chapter?

*Chapter 11:*

1. What band was Steven listening to after he found his father crying?

2. What caused Steven's dad to cry?

3. What was the total of Jeffery's medical bills?

4. What is Steven's fear in for his family?

5. What saying does Steven continue to repeat in the chapter?

6. Who is going to tutor Steven in math?

7. Who volunteers to help Steven in all subjects EXCEPT for math?

8. What is the current status of Jeffery's blood count?

9. What does Jeffery call Steven's cologne?

10. What is the problem when Renee comes to the door?

11. How does Renee react at the end of the chapter?

*Chapter 12:*

1. Name 3 out of the 6 things from Steven's January update report:
2. What grade does Steven earn in math?
3. True or False: Steven decides to call his mom when he gets home from school.
4. Why does Steven's dad come home from work early?
5. How does Steven react when his father scolds him?
6. What two words does Steven's father respond with?
7. What reward does Steven's dad give to him for working hard in math?
8. Why did Steven say it was good his mom came to his drum practice?
9. Who comes to visit near the end of the chapter?
10. What does Steven notice when he puts Jeffery to bed?
11. What is Jeffery's favorite book?



*Chapter 13:*

1. What dream does Steven begin to have and what does Jeffery say to him in it?
2. Who do Steven's parents want him to tell about the dream?
3. What does Steven offer Renee on the bus?
4. What dreadful question does Renee ask Steven?
5. What advice does Mrs. Galley give Steven?
6. What two things happen at the end of the chapter?

*Chapter 14:*

1. What decision does Steven make about his drum lessons?
2. How much do Steven's parents spend on drum lessons per month?
3. Who is Steven's drum teacher?
4. What does Steven try to give to his drum teacher?
5. What decision does Steven's drum teacher make about Steven's lessons?
6. What does Steven do with his mom's check for the lesson?

7. What problem does Annette have? What does this mean for the concert?
8. What is the name of the final song for the spring concert?
9. What is the “good news” in the chapter? Explain
10. What is the “bad news” in the chapter? Explain

*Chapter 15:*

1. What one word does Steven use to describe the universe?
2. What was Annette doing when she fell?
3. What two things are unfair to Steven?
4. What comment does Jeffery’s new kindergarten classmate make to him?
5. What does Steven do to make his brother feel better?
6. What is Steven’s one complaint about his new look?

*Chapter 16:*

1. Describe the new requirement for graduation that Mr. Watras adds.
2. What are Annette and Renee doing when Steven oversees them?

3. What great idea do Renee and Annette come up with?
4. What 2 worries does Steven have?
5. What event happens at the end of the chapter with Steven's mom?
6. What is the problem the family faces at the end of the chapter?

*Chapter 17:*

1. Who decides to take Jeff to Philadelphia?
2. What is meant by a "men's journey"?
3. What is Jeffery's reaction to having Steven there?
4. What is the purpose of EMLA?
5. Who is Jeffery's favorite doctor?
6. What treat does Jeffery love to get from the third floor?
7. Why is Steven's cheek bleeding?
8. What important item did they forget on their way to Philadelphia?
9. What important task does Jeff give to Steven?

*Chapter 18:*

1. What does the word “hepatic” equal?
2. What instructions does the doctor give to Steven’s dad?
3. If Jeff turns what color, do they need to bring him in immediately?
4. When does Steven’s dad call him a “man”?
5. What realization does Steven have for the first time in this chapter?
6. What feeling does Steven have as his mom hugs his brother?
7. What gift does Mrs. Galley give Steven?
8. Who else was enjoying Mrs. Galley’s gift?

*Chapter 19:*

1. What is the date of the last time Steven has his dream?
2. It is also the same day as \_\_\_\_\_?
3. What is on the cover of the band concert program?
4. What is on the first page of the program?
5. What does Steven notice about Renee and Annette?

6. What character did Jeffery get his face painted like?
7. Why did they come to get Steven from school?
8. What pre-concert treat does Steven eat?
9. What surprise do the band members have for Jeffery and Steven when they get to the concert?

*Chapter 20:*

1. What was the matter with Jeffery?
2. What request does Jeffery make in regard to his ride to Philadelphia?
3. Name three people who leave phone messages on the Alper's answering machine.
4. What revelation does Steven have after leaving the concert and hearing the messages?
5. What does Steven find out when he gets to Philadelphia?
6. What does Samantha leave for Steven?

*Epilogue:*

1. What is the setting of the opening scene in the Epilogue?
2. Which two people are sitting next to Steven?
3. What award does Renee receive?
4. What award does Steven receive?
5. What award does Annette receive?
6. What reaction does Annette receive when her name is called at graduation?
7. What does Jeffery whisper to Steven as he leaves graduation?
8. Who does Steven think about as he leaves graduation?