**Part 1: August**

Chapter 1: *Ordinary*

1. In the first paragraph, what two events happen that show that he is not ordinary?
2. What action does Via do that shows August that he’s not ordinary?
3. Why doesn’t August describe himself?

Chapter 2: *Why I didn’t go to school*

1. What kept August from attending a public school in his previous years?
2. How did August get his education in grades 1 – 4?
3. Why aren’t August’s friends scared of him?
4. According to the last paragraph, what determines a good friend?

Chapter 3 & 4 *How I came to Life* and *Christopher’s House*

1. What part of Mom’s story before the birth did August find so funny?
2. Why couldn’t the doctor help with all the hysteria in the operating room?
3. What did Mom focus on the first time she saw August?
4. What subject was Mom discussing with Christopher’s mom?
5. What is Dad’s name?
6. Why did August want “Dad to win”?

Chapter 5 & 6 *Driving* & *Paging Mr. Tushman*

1. What do you think dad meant by the phrase ‘like a lamb to the slaughter’?
2. Why would this year be better than next for August to go to school?
3. Why is the principal’s name funny?
4. Why would August take hold of Mom’s hand instead of the principal’s?
5. What words tell the reader that this school is “different”?

Chapter 7 & 8 *Nice Mrs. Garcia* & *Jack Will, Julian, and Charlotte*

1. Why didn’t anybody look at August as he walked down the hallways?
2. Why did Mr. Tushman hang students’ work on the walls of his office?
3. What did August think was the subject of the painting behind Tushman’s desk?
4. Why are hurtful words from younger kids more acceptable to August than hurtful words from older kids?
5. Why had the principal asked the children to come into school that day?

Chapter 9 & 10 *The Grand Tour* & *The Performance Space*

1. What class did August need to ask clarification about?
2. Why was Charlotte so excited about the performance space?
3. How can August tell when people are staring at him?
4. What elective was considered the most difficult?
5. What do you think of Julian, Charlotte and Jack Will?

Chapter 11 & 12 *The Deal* & *Home*

1. What activity did Mom ask about that was not available for a few months?
2. What clue does August give his mom with the following quote? “Don’t we have to pick Via up soon?”
3. What did August say to Mr. Tushman to make sure he did not blame the kids for him leaving so quickly?
4. Why do you think Mom and August had different opinions about Julian?
5. What decision does August make at the end of this section?

Chapter 13 & 14 *First Day Jitters* & *Locks*

1. Describe how Mom and Dad’s opinions on the school had changed.
2. If August knows his neighbourhood so well, why does it feel all new to him suddenly?
3. Why did August give his mom a fast hard hug?
4. Who said “Hi” to August first?
5. Who sat next to August and said “Hi”?

**Deeper thinking questions chapters 1-14 (oral questions, do not need to be written)**

1. August thinks of himself as ordinary but doesn’t feel like other people think he is ordinary. Why do you think that is?
2. What makes someone ‘ordinary’?
3. What different ways do Mom and Dad protect August?
4. Why do you think Mom is just as scared as August at the school?
5. How do you think you would have reacted/felt if you were August on page 27/28 when Julian is asking him the ‘rude’ questions?
6. Do you think August is going to become good friends with any of these 3 children?
7. Why do you think August decided to go to school?
8. If you were August, how would you feel going to school for the first time?
9. After reading these chapters, what do you predict for the next few chapters?- will August make friends? Will he like school? Will he settle into school?
10. There are plenty of examples of figurative speech in this book. Figurative speech is something that is not literally true but has a different meaning that people understand. It makes writing and reading much more interesting. For example, it’s raining cats and dogs (it’s not actually raining cats and dogs but it does mean a lot of rain and sounds better). Can you find any examples of figurative speech in the book so far. Make a list because I’d like to discuss them when we’re back in school.