

The Doughnut Fix

By Jessie Janowitz

Before Reading

Preview the book. Look at the illustration on the cover. Then read the back-cover copy. No, you're not dreaming. This book is filled with doughnuts! OK, it's also about a boy, Tristan, whose family moves from the "greatest city in the world" to the middle of nowhere. But Tristan has a plan for making his life worth living again. What is it? You guessed it. Doughnuts!

While Reading

As you read, take time to pause and think about the following questions:

Why do Tristan and his family leave New York City? Can you think of a time in your own life when you or your family had to deal with a challenge by making a major change in your lives?

What does Tristan choose to do as a project during the two months before he starts his new school? If you had to choose a project that would keep you busy for a couple of months, what would you choose to do, and why?

Friendships can be complicated. How did Tristan and Charlie's relationship change when Tristan left New York City? What did Tristan realize about Charlie after he became friends with Josh? How did this realization make him feel?

Explain the deal that Winnie makes with Tristan. What does she ask for? What does Tristan give her? What does Tristan learn from her, and from his doughnut project, as a result?

After Reading

Have you ever had to move or say goodbye to a friend or relative who moved? What was it like? How did you feel? How did you cope with the change?

Have you ever been jealous of a sibling, cousin, or friend, the way that Jeanine is jealous of Tristan? Describe the situation and what you did about it.

Literacy Tip

On page 207, Tristan's mom explains to him, "The whole is always bigger than the parts when you're talking food. The magic happens when you put them together." The author uses this moment to highlight a theme of the book. Think about how Tristan feels about Petersville when he first sees it. (He sees only the parts, which individually seem run-down.) But by the end of the book, all those parts of Petersville add up to something special.

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Think About It!

On the previous page, you thought about what you might do for a two-month-long project. Now, put your idea into action. Create a plan for your project, just like Tristan did for his doughnuts. Choose something you love to do—something you're passionate about. Remember, doing what you love is the key to a successful project (or business)! Then, on a piece of paper, explain:

- what your plan is and how it works.
- why it's guaranteed to succeed, or what the "hook" is.
- why people should invest in it.

Now prepare to pitch your project! Present your plan to a potential investor (for example, a family member or friend), just like Tristan and Josh did for the Doughnut Stop.