

Squished by Megan Lloyd and Michelle Mee Nutter

10. Squished by Megan Wagner Lloyd

A fun graphic novel about finding your own space, especially when you're in a family of nine!

Eleven-year-old Avery Lee loves living in Hickory Valley, Maryland. She loves her neighborhood, school, and the end-of-summer fair she always goes to with her two best friends. But she's tired of feeling squished by her six siblings! They're noisy and chaotic and the younger kids love her a little too much. All Avery wants is her own room, her own space to be alone and make art. She's furious when Theo, her grumpy older brother, gets his own room instead, and her wild baby brother, Max, moves into the room she already shares with her clinging sister Pearl! Avery hatches a plan to finally get her own room, all while trying to get Max to sleep at night, navigating changes in her friendships, and working on an art entry for the fair. And when Avery finds out that her family might move across the country, things get even more complicated.

A funny, heartfelt, and charming story of family, friendship, and growing up.

Discussion, revision & competition-like questions for this book are below.

Reading Rivalry Is Not a test!

Note the Reading Rivalry questions are tools used to discuss the book(s) and topics the students read.

The intent of RR is to foster a love of reading, introduce the students to books they may not otherwise choose, provide opportunities to work as a team and have fun!

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- 1. Who wrote and illustrated the book *Squished*?**
Squished was written by Megan Lloyd and illustrated by Michelle Mee Nutter.
- 2. Name all the members of the Lee family including pets and the stuffie.**
Mom, Dad, Theo, Avery, Pearl, Juliet, Josie, Max, Bea (short for Beatrice), Watson the dog, Miss Kitty the cat, and Slothy the stuffie.
- 3. How old were each of the children in the Lee family?**
Theo 13, Avery 11, Pearl 8, Juliet 5, Josie 4, Max 2, Bea 9months.
- 4. What is the name of the elementary school and where is it?**
Hickory Valley Elementary in Hickory Valley Maryland.
- 5. Name Avery's two best friends in elementary school.**
Dani and Cameron
- 6. Who is the principal of Hickory Valley Elementary?**
Cameron's mother, Principal Williams.
- 7. When Avery was receiving her Outstanding Artist award, who ran up on stage to her and what did he lose on the way?**
Max (Avery's little brother), he lost his pants / trousers.
- 8. Who got their own room in the Lee household?**
Theo
- 9. Who is going to move into the basement of the Williams house?**
Cameron's grandmother.
- 10. Why does Avery want to get work as a dog walker?**
To make money, (so they could add a room to the basement).
- 11. Where did Avery and Theo find Honey after he chased some rabbits?**
He was back home at Miss Patty's.
- 12. What excuse did Avery use to leave the playdate with Dani & Charlotte?**
Avery said she had laundry to do.
- 13. What kind of job is Mrs. Lees looking for?**
A full time Coding job (after her internship).

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14. What instrument did Pearl play to get people to notice the lemonade stand?

The violin.

15. What did Avery and Mrs. Lee order in Lulu's for their mommy-daughter date in July?

Avery ordered the better-than-best biscuits and gravy platter with a side of hashbrowns and chocolate milk.

Mrs. Lee ordered a black coffee and the western omelet.

16. Why is Avery not excited about her mother's job interview in Oregon?

Avery does not want to leave Hickory Valley and her friends; she is afraid the family will have to leave Hickory Valley if Mrs. Lee is successful at the interview.

17. Who lives in Oregon already?

Grandma and Grandpa.

18. What is the new picture / art piece Avery is working on?

A picture filled with things about her life.

19. Where did Mr. Lee take the children skating?

Skate World; to an event for sixth graders and their families.

20. What type of camp did Cameron attend during the summer?

Space camp.

21. Why did the Lee's have to leave Skate World?

They were kicked out after Avery tripped Nick and his friends by accident, when she was trying to get Theo's book back from them.

22. Who did the parents talk to about the move first?

The big kids – Theo and Avery.

23. When will they leave Hickory Valley?

By the middle of August.

24. Instead of the Hickory Valley Fair, what event did the Lees go to in Hickory Valley?

The Hickory Valley Sunflower Festival.

25. What did Cameron mean when he said, "you can't step in the same water twice"?

Like life, water is always moving and changing, just like people. Even if they return to the same place in the future, they will be different, and the water will be different because everything always changes.

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26. What did Max do during the family meeting when Mr. & Mrs. Lee told them the family is moving to Oregon?

Max climbed to the top of the bookcase.

27. Where did Avery find Juliet and Josie after they ran away?

Avery found them at Miss Patty's.

Discussion questions

1. What is your favorite thing about the book?
2. Do you think moving would be fun, challenging or both? Why?

What do you think about Avery and Cameron's intra-galactic-hangout idea (They will pick a time every Friday and wave across the country at each other)?

3. Did you ever walk a dog or a pet? How did it go?
4. Have you ever set up a lemonade stand, helped with a garage sale or a similar activity?
5. What is your favorite musical instrument? Why?
6. Have you ever been to a restaurant with a family member? If yes, what did you order?
7. "You can't step in the same water twice," discuss.