

Hummingbird by Natalie Lloyd

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A heartfelt story about a twelve-year-old homeschooled Olive who is tired of being seen as "fragile" just because she has osteogenesis imperfecta (otherwise known as brittle bone disease). She's thrilled when she finally convinces her parents to let her attend Macklemore Elementary. Olive can't wait to go to a traditional school and make the friends she's always longed for, until a disastrous first day dashes her hopes of ever fitting in.

Then Olive hears whispers about a magical, wish-granting hummingbird that supposedly lives near Macklemore. It'll be the solution to all her problems! If she can find the bird and prove herself worthy, the creature will make her most desperate, secret wish come true.

When it becomes clear that she can't solve the mystery on her own, Olive teams up with some unlikely allies who help her learn the truth about the bird. And on the way, she just might learn that our fragile places lead us to the most wonderful magic of all.

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. What is Olive's Uncle's name?**
Uncle Dash.
- 2. Who is Olive's favorite person she never met?**
Dolly Parton.
- 3. Where does Olive live?**
On Huckleberry Lane in Wildwood, Tennessee.
- 4. Who is Olive's stepbrother?**
Hatch Malone
- 5. What occupation does Olive's stepfather, Coach Malone have?**
Gym teacher at Macklemore Middle School
- 6. What condition does Olive have?**
Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI) / a bone disease / brittle bones.
- 7. What did Olive name her 2 wheelchairs?**
Dolly and Reba.
- 8. What accessories does Olive love?**
Glitter and sequins.
- 9. Olive is home schooled, but what is Olive's dream school? Why?**
Macklemore Middle School.
 - (i) To prove to everyone there is more to her than being fragile,
 - (ii) to find a BFF,
 - (iii) and it is time to find her wings.
- 10. What does Olive call her dad?**
Olive calls him by his name, Jupiter.
- 11. Who owns the Apple Ragged Café?**
Nester Tuberosa / Ms. Tuberosa.
- 12. What was carved into the border of the tall double front doors of Macklemore Middle School (They are considered good luck charms in the state of Tennessee)?**
Hummingbirds.
- 13. What is the name of the teacher aide that pushes Olive's wheelchair around school?**
Ms. Pigeon.

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14. According to Mr. Watson what are the three things the sixth-grade class believes in?

(i) Miracles surround us every day, (ii) every person deserves respect & kindness, and (iii) an ink pen is a direct line to a person's heart.

15. According to Twing Moody's riddle where can the hummingbird be found?

“Where fear and wonder both collide,
That is where the creatures hide.”

16. Who does Olive have a crush on?

Ransom McCallister.

17. What was the name of the school play?

Hope Like Feathers: A Play about the Wildlife of Emily Dickinson.

18. Grandpa Goad was a birder, and he told Olive lots of interesting facts about birds, but what bird did he neglect to tell her about?

The magical hummingbird.

19. What is the one sport Olive knows about?

Quidditch.

20. What do hummingbirds eat?

Nectar.

21. Who is the therapy sloth?

Bon Jovi.

22. What two roles in the play did Olive audition for?

The Bird of Joy, and Emily Dickinson.

23. What role does Olive get in the play after the audition?

Bird of Joy

24. Who is Olive's best friend?

Grace.

25. What does Ransom give Olive?

A purple pen, a shark tooth necklace, and a unicorn stuffie.

26. What happened to Hatch's dog, Biscuit before he moved to Huckleberry Lane?

She ran off during a storm.

27. What did Ransom write on Olive's wrist when she was loaded onto the stretcher?

Brave.

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Discussion questions

1. What is your favorite thing about the book?

2. Discuss the following quotes from the book, Hummingbird by Natalie Lloyd:
 - a) “One person’s talent does not take away from your talent.”
 - b) “Seeing the future.... They stop thinking about right now and focus on twenty years ahead of now. They waste all this good time. Today’s where the living’s at.”
 - c) “I wish you could see people who look different in the main roles.”
 - d) “Teamwork makes the dream work.”
 - e) “there’s way more that you can do than you can’t do.”
 - f) “I’ve got my voice. That’s all I need”.
 - g) “When you are nervous about something, that means it matters. That’s a good thing”.