



SMALL MEDIUM AT LARGE

By
Joanne Levy

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Audience: 8-12
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About the book: Lilah Bloom hears dead people. And boy, are they annoying! After she's hit by lightning at a wedding, twelve-year-old Lilah Bloom develops a new talent: she hears dead people. Among them, there's her over-opinionated bubbly Dora; a comically prissy fashion designer; and an approval-seeking clown who livens up a séance. With Bubby Dora leading the way, these and other sweetly imperfect ghosts haunt Lilah through seventh grade, and help her face her one fear: talking to and possibly going to the seventh-grade dance with her big crush, Andrew Finkel.

Themes

Ghosts ~*~ Death ~*~ The Afterlife ~*~ Divorce ~*~ Bullying ~*~ Cancer ~*~ Dating
Kissing ~*~ Body Development ~*~ Fashion ~*~ Doing The Right Thing

Read Aloud Suggestions

p. 15 – “Are you awake...” – Lilah realizes her new ability and her dead grandmother solicits her help
p. 106 – “Thursday. Math class...” – Lilah faces an ethical dilemma.

Booktalk

Because being 12, flat-chested and harassed by the school’s popular girl isn’t bad enough, Lilah Bloom’s life changes forever when she is hit by lightning and can suddenly hear ghosts.

Discussion Questions

1. After being hit by lightning, Lilah can suddenly hear ghosts. Do you believe in ghosts? Why or why not?
2. If you could talk to ghosts, who would you want to talk to?

Discussion Questions – continued

3. At the beginning of the book, Dolly is mean to Lilah, making fun of her and her clothes. Why do you think she acts that way?
4. When Lilah is doing her math make-up test, she has the opportunity to cheat, but she decides not to, even though it means she won't get perfect on the test. Why do you think she did this? What would you have done in this situation? Why?
5. Lilah helps Dolly with the Fashion Show, which is a fundraiser for Cancer Research. If you could help with a fundraiser, what would it be and what cause would you be raising money for?
6. If you could have a special ability, (without having to be hit by lightning!) what would it be?

Projects and Activities

1. Lilah's ability to hear ghosts comes after she is hit by lightning, but in real life, lightning is **very** dangerous—research lightning and how to stay safe during electrical storms.
2. Create a new cover for *SMALL MEDIUM AT LARGE*, documenting your favorite part of the book.
3. Lilah and Alex want to start a band. What kind of music do you think they would like? Make up a playlist of songs you think they would include in their set.
4. Lilah's cat's name is Salvatore Lasagna—write a story about how he got that name.
5. Alex makes up flyers for Lilah's Medium business—make up a flyer for a business you would like to start.



About the Author: Joanne Levy's love of books began at a very early age. Being the youngest and the only female among four children, she was often left to her own devices and could frequently be found sitting in a quiet corner with her nose in a book. Joanne now spends her weekdays as an executive assistant at one of Canada's big banks, planning meetings and thwarting coffee emergencies. When Joanne isn't working, she can usually be found at her computer, channeling her younger self into books.

Joanne still lives in Ontario with her husband and kids of the furred and feathered variety.

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