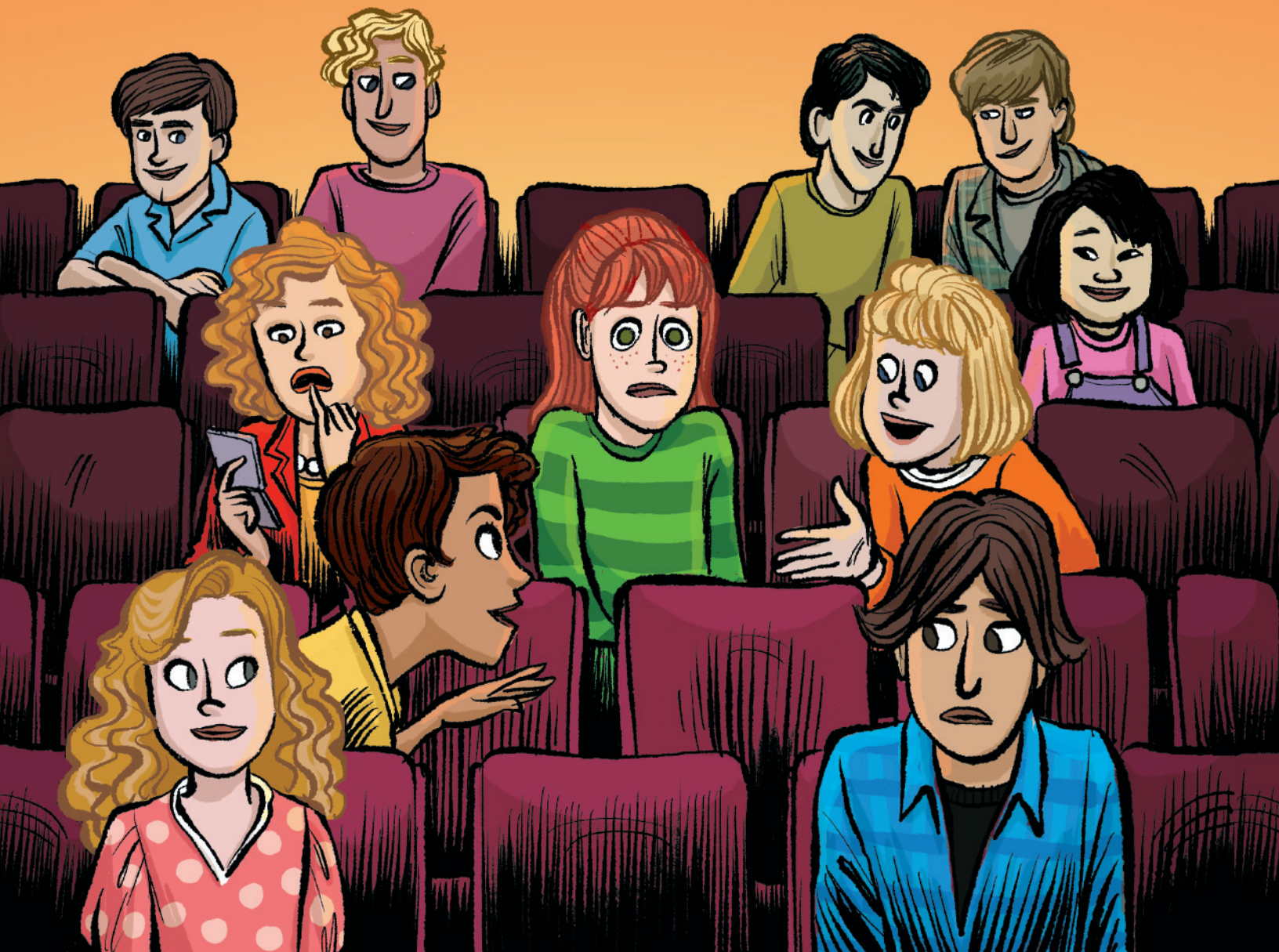




Activities inspired by **FRIENDS FOREVER**

by **SHANNON HALE** and **LEUYEN PHAM**



PARTY SNACKS & REFRESHMENT TIPS!

On the next few pages, you'll find some ideas on party snacks, drinks, and activities!

YOU CAN PREPARE THESE SNACKS AND DRINKS BEFOREHAND OR WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

FRIENDS FOREVER MARSHMALLOW POPS

Ingredients:

20 popsicle sticks
40 large marshmallows
4 ½ teaspoons canola oil
2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
toppings of your choice
(sprinkles, toasted chopped nuts,
toasted coconut shavings, etc.)

Directions:

In a microwave-safe bowl, microwave the chocolate chips with the canola oil until melted. Stir until smooth.

Spear two marshmallows on each popsicle stick. Dip into the melted chocolate and coat evenly, allowing the excess to drip off. Roll in or sprinkle on toppings!

Place baking sheets lined with waxed paper and refrigerate until set.



RASPBERRY SORBET PARTY PUNCH

Ingredients:

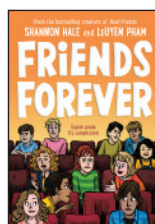
2-liter bottle of Sprite or 7-Up, chilled
2-liter bottle of club soda, chilled
1 12-oz. can of fruit punch or pink lemonade
1 12-oz. can of pineapple juice or pink lemonade
6 to 8 scoops of raspberry sherbert ice cream.
(Another flavor can be used if you don't have raspberry!)

Optional: To make your drink photo-ready, you can add fresh or frozen raspberries and canned or fresh pineapple slices as garnish!

Directions:

Line a baking dish or container with plastic wrap. Put scoops of ice cream into the dish and put the dish in the freezer. Add the ice cream just before serving so it doesn't melt in the punch.

In a large bowl, combine the Sprite or 7-Up, club soda, and both cans of juice
Add scooped ice cream and garnish just before serving!



PARTY ACTIVITIES



Sardines

While one person hides, the others search for them. When the hidden friend is found, the person who found them hides with them. The game continues until all the seekers have found the hiding place! The last friend to join the group becomes the next person to hide.

Charades

Write a noun, verb, or short phrase on slips of paper. Try to come up with as many as you can! Fold them so you can't see what's written on them, then put all the slips of paper in a bowl and mix.

Split into two teams. Have a player from one team draw a slip of paper from the bowl and act out the word/phrase using gestures as their team tries to guess what's on the paper. Set a time limit of thirty seconds. No speaking or sounds allowed! Then the next team takes their turn. If the mimer's team guesses the word or phrase correctly within the time limit, they're given a point. The first team to get ten points wins!

Two Truths and a Tale

Ask everyone to come up with three statements about themselves, one of which isn't true. Then go around the room, and have each person give their "Two Truths and a Tale." Guess which statement isn't true.



READER'S THEATER

Use the below guide to act out a scene from **BEST FRIENDS!**

Instructions:

Divide into groups of five.

Select a part to play!

Narrator Shannon

Shannon

Shannons' Mom

Optometrist

Jane

Use the script to practice lines individually and then as a group—memorizing isn't necessary, just have fun!

Once everyone is comfortable with their lines, take turns performing the scene for the larger group!

After each group has performed the scene discuss the following:

- Why do you think Shannon didn't want to get new glasses? Would you have done the same?
- In the scene where Shannon is reading her book, she says that someone only matters because they're beautiful. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
- What does this scene say about how Shannon views herself? How do you think society has influenced her perspective on beauty and self-worth?
- What did Shannon mean when she said, "Even though I could see, that didn't change how people saw me"?



READER'S THEATER SCRIPT

(Scene opens with Shannon on her bed, reading a book.)

Narrator Shannon: In all the stories, the guy falls for the girl at first sight. And then he'll do anything for her. She matters because she's beautiful.

Shannon's Mom: Shannon!

Shannon: Coming!

(Shannon leaves her room and gets into the car with her mom. As her mom drives, Shannon looks out the window, squinting.)

Narrator Shannon: Ever since I lost my glasses in sixth grade, I had to squint to see things far away. I tried not to complain so my mom wouldn't make me get new ones. In movies, girls weren't beautiful till they took their glasses off. But my mom decided I was finally old enough to get contacts.

(Shannon and her mom get out of the car and go into the optometrist's office. They sit at a table, in front of a mirror. The optometrist walks over, carrying a tray. On the tray are contact lens boxes and a nail clipper.)

Optometrist: Let's practice putting in the contacts. But first you should clip those long nails.

(Hands the nail clippers to Shannon.)

Shannon: *(Grossed out)* Um, I need a garbage can. Isn't cutting them over the floor super gross?

(The optometrist's lips tighten, and he looks annoyed as he hands over a garbage can. Shannon clips her nails quietly, embarrassed.)

Narrator Shannon: I heard how snarky my voice sounded, and I saw the doctor's lips tighten. I wasn't trying to be rude. I just remembered what Jane said, how gross it was that her cousin clipped her nails on her bedroom floor without a garbage can or anything, and I was trying to sound mature, to pretend that I'd known all along. But I felt too embarrassed to explain. Or apologize.

(After clipping her nails, Shannon holds her eye open with a thumb and forefinger, struggling to put in a contact. After some time, she finally gets them in.)

Optometrist: How does it feel?

Shannon: *(Blinks hard)* Ow.

Optometrist: *(To Shannon's mom, who looks worried as Shannon continues to blink)* She'll get used to it.

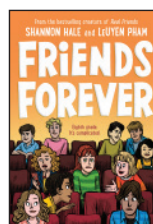
(Scene changes to school, where Shannon approaches Jane, who is at her locker.)

Shannon: Notice anything different about me?

Jane: Um . . . *(Jane squints and examines Shannon.)* You . . . trimmed your bangs?

(Shannon looks crestfallen.)

Narrator Shannon: Even though I could see, that didn't change how people saw me.



MASH

MANSION | APARTMENT | SHACK | HOUSE

Directions: Fill out each category. Have your friend sit with you and close your eyes while you draw an outward spiral. When your friend says “Stop,” stop drawing. Count the number of rings in the spiral you’ve drawn. This is your magic number. Starting with the M from “MASH” at the top of the page, move clockwise and count each option (A, S, H, then the bullets under each category) until you reach your magic number. Cross off the option you land on. Start the count over just after the option you crossed off and continue around the page, skipping any crossed-off option. When there is only one option left in each category, tell your friends what their future is!

DRAW THE MAGIC SPIRAL HERE!

ROOMMATE

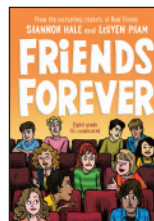
JOB

VEHICLE

PET

MAGIC NUMBER: _____

BEST FRIEND



FRIENDS FOREVER BOOKMARKS

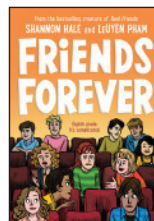
In the spaces below, draw and color in a unique design for each bookmark. Cut them out and give them to your best friends to show your appreciation! You can also do this as a group, with each person making their own.

When everyone is done, put the bookmarks together, close your eyes, and pick from the pile!

FRIENDS
FOREVER

FRIENDS
FOREVER

FRIENDS
FOREVER



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Kick off your book club with these questions!

REAL FRIENDS

1. When you read the book, how did you feel?
2. Have you ever felt like Shannon did?
3. Are friends ever stressful for you?
4. Were there some things that little Shannon did that you thought were the wrong choice?
5. Do you think the main character in a book needs to be perfect?



BEST FRIENDS

1. How has Shannon changed from *Real Friends* to *Best Friends*?
2. What are some of the ways you relate to your friends?
3. Are you a different “self” with each group of friends you have?
4. Have your friends ever tested you?
5. Has reading this book changed how you think about other people?

FRIENDS FOREVER

1. How have you seen Shannon change throughout the series?
2. Like Shannon, have you ever felt like you weren't good enough? Why? Write about a time you achieved something and how it made you feel.
3. Have you ever felt jealous of a friend? How has this affected your friendship?
4. In this story, Shannon is often seeking the attention and approval of her family, friends, and peers. Do you think that all attention is good attention? Why or why not?
5. Throughout *Friends Forever*, the author brings up a story from her childhood when she had cactus needles in her knees and no one knew what was wrong. Why is this anecdote significant, and what do the cactus needles represent?

