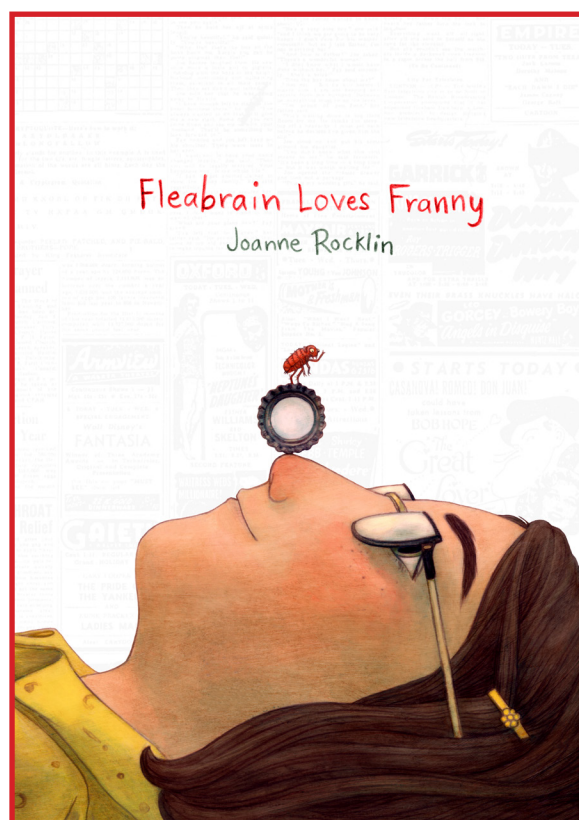


# ACTIVITY/DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Fleabrain Loves Franny

Joanne Rocklin



Amulet Books  
9781419710681  
\$16.95  
Ages 8-12  
Middle-grade Fiction

**From images, interviews, and information:**

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# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe Franny's reaction when she gets her first note from Fleabrain.
2. Franny's biggest desire is to walk again, and she works really hard to make that happen. What have you worked really hard at?
3. Franny believes in invisible alien viruses, that life exists on other planets, and she believes in Fleabrain. What do you believe in?
4. Franny feels left out because her friends are afraid of catching polio from her. Have you ever felt left out? How did it make you feel?
5. Fleabrain can read, whistle, and he has an amazing jumping ability. What are you really good at?
6. Many words in *Fleabrain Loves Franny* have more than one meaning. For example, the word 'great' can mean powerful or wonderful, and the word 'pedestrian' can mean a person who walks or it can be used to describe something that lacks inspiration or excitement. What are other words that have more than one meaning?
7. Charlotte the spider is an inspiration to both Franny and Fleabrain. Who is an inspiration in your life?
8. How does Franny's friendship with Fleabrain change her attitude over the course of the story?
9. Why do you think Franny doesn't want to show anyone her progress with leg movement at first?
10. Franny and Fleabrain perform all kinds of good deeds around the neighborhood when they're out riding Lightning the horse together. What kinds of good deeds could you do in your neighborhood?
11. Quiet Katy becomes not so quiet when she's in one-to-one situations with Franny. Are you shyer in groups or with just one other person? How do you become more comfortable expressing yourself?
12. If you had a few drops of FB Saliva #1-X from Fleabrain to travel in a flash, where would you go? What kinds of things would you want to do?
13. Through visiting the Seven Wonders of the World, Franny decides her own town is a Wonder. Think of your town as a Wonder. What do you find wonderful about it?
14. How does Franny react when she discovers the truth about Fleabrain's potions? How do you think she feels?
15. Based on the last newspaper article in the book, what was Fleabrain's last effort to help Franny? How do you think everything turned out for Franny? Where do you think Fleabrain is now?
16. *Fleabrain Loves Franny* encompasses the Jewish spiritual concepts of **tzedaka** and **tikkun olam** to tell a universal story about hope and resilience. Define these Hebrew phrases and describe what they mean to you.

**Aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Grades 3 to 7**

English Language Arts Standards » Reading: Literature: CCSS.ELA- Literacy.RL.3.1, RL.3.2, RL.3.3, RL.3.10, RL.4.1, RL.4.2, RL.4.10, RL.5.2, RL.5.10

English Language Arts Standards » Speaking & Listening: CCSS.ELA- Literacy.SL.3.1, SL.3.1.C, SL.3.1.D, SL.3.6, SL.4.1, SL.4.1.D, SL.5.1, SL.5.1.C, SL.5.1.D, SL.6.1, SL.6.1.C, SL.6.1.D, SL.7.1, SL.7.1.C, SL.7.1.D,

English Language Arts Standards » Reading: Foundational Skills: CCSS.ELA- Literacy.RF.3.3, RF.3.4, RF.3.4.A, RF.4.3, RF.4.4, RF.4.4.A, RF.5.3, RF.5.4, RF.5.4.A

# ACTIVITIES

1. In the style of English poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Fleabrain makes a list of all the ways he loves Franny. Now, it's your turn. Choose someone you love, and make a list of all the ways you love them.
2. Franny and Fleabrain are similar in some ways and different in others. Draw a Venn diagram to compare these two characters. What qualities do they share? What traits are specific to only one character?
3. Franny has a hard time being optimistic about her recovery, but notes and encouragement from Fleabrain always make her feel better. Try writing an encouraging note to Franny. What would you say to lift her spirits?
4. In the chapter "A Wondrous Travel Journal," Franny and Fleabrain write journal entries about their adventures to the Seven Wonders of the World. Compare and contrast their journal entries. Make lists of how they are the same and how they are different. Describe Franny's writing style. How is it compared to Fleabrain's? What does Franny say about the Wonders? What observations does Fleabrain make?
5. If you are reading this in conjunction with *Charlotte's Web*, make a list of where Joanne Rocklin references E.B. White's text.
6. From reading the text, you learn about the importance of scientific research in terms of disease. Make a timeline of polio research findings starting with the time frame of *Fleabrain Loves Franny* and ending in 2015.

**Aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Grades 3 to 7**

English Language Arts Standards » Writing: CCSS.ELA- Literacy. W.3.2, W.3.3, W.3.4, W.3.7, W.4.2, W.4.3, W.4.4, W.4.7, W.5.2, W.5.3, W.5.4, W.5.7, W.6.2, W.6.3, W.6.4, W.6.7, W.7.2, W.7.3, W.7.4, W.7.7

English Language Arts Standards » Writing: CCSS.ELA- Literacy in History/Social Studies: WHST.6-8.2.A, WHST.6-8.2., D, WHST.6-8.4, WHST.6-8.7