THE DERBY DAREDEVILS: KENZIE KICKSTARTS A TEAM

*Class reading, discussion, & activity guide*

Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. When Kenzie and Shelly first encounter Tomoko at the park, what activity is Tomoko doing?
2. Who does Shelly want to invite to the team that Kenzie says no to?
3. What activity does Kenzie do with her mom that she leaves Shelly out of?
4. What does Kenzie compare roller derby to in order to convince Camila to join the team?
5. What happens to Camila at halftime during the tryout scrimmage?

Discussion Questions:

1. The book introduces Kenzie and Shelly as best friends. How does having a best friend help when it comes to starting a larger group or a team? How does having a best friend complicate forming a group or team?
2. Kenzie has some pretty complicated feelings about Bree. Why do you think she doesn’t want to share those feelings with Shelly?
3. Sometimes Kenzie and Shelly enter into their shared “M&M brain.” What are some cool things about the M&M brain? What are some problems with it?
4. At times, Kenzie is worried that she’ll lose her best friend. Have you ever felt this way about a friend? What advice would you give to Kenzie?
5. In the end of the book, the Daredevils lose the scrimmage. But what does the team gain? How important was winning?

Activities:

* **Brainstorm!**
  + Identify a problem you’re having, whether it’s about how to get your sibling to share the TV remote, how to land that tricky skating move, or even how to worm out of bed on Sundays before noon. Then draw a HUGE cloud on a piece of paper. You can add lightning strikes in too! Inside the cloud (and the lightning) jot down every possible solution to your problem that pops into your head. Nothing is too silly. Let the storm in your brain out onto paper!
* **Sword fight!**
  + Look up Act 1, Scene 1 of William Shakespeare’s play *Romeo & Juliet.* Either get a sibling, guardian, or friend to help, or play all the roles yourself! Memorize a few of the lines and stage your own sword fight using something hilariously creative (and safe) as swords. (A few sword suggestions: rubber chickens, pipe cleaners, empty toilet paper rolls, or bookmarks!)
* **Derby moves!**
  + Kenzie and Shelly come up with lots of creative Dynamic Duo skating moves. Now that you know the basics of how roller derby jams work, try to come up with one or two moves for the Daredevils to use at their next practice! Describe the move in a paragraph on paper, then act it out with friends or family!