

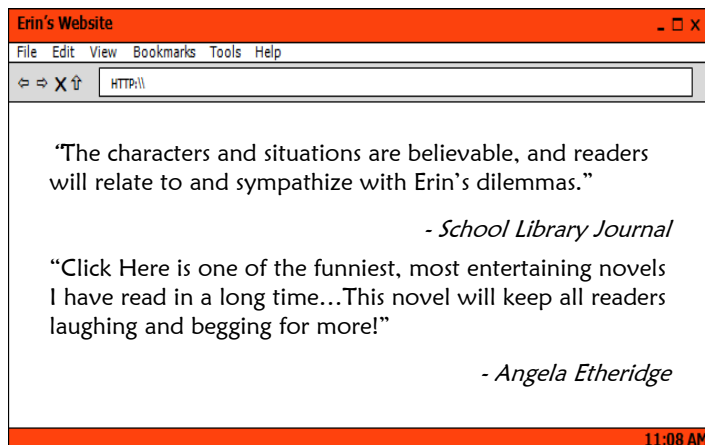
Discussion Guide



Click Here

(to find out how I survived seventh grade)

By Denise Vega



Erin Penelope Swift starts her seventh grade year at a new school full of apprehension. Her best friend, Jilly Hennessey, is not on the same track with her, people she knows on the bus don't really pay attention to her, and when she gets to school, Serena Worthington insults her and Erin punches her in the nose. She also finds herself in a play she doesn't want to be in and has a crush on Mark Sacks, a boy who likes her as a friend and nothing more.

Erin's salvation comes with the Intranet Club, or I-Club, where she has confidence in her computer and web design skills and shows her ability to be a leader. Her friendships start to grow and, except for Mark not returning her feelings, things are good.

When Mark starts to like Jilly and she likes him back, Erin is hurt but says nothing. But when Jilly decides to break up with Mark and asks Erin to pick between the two of them, Erin finally takes a stand, choosing not to choose. The two friends stay mad at each other, and it only gets worse when Erin writes hateful things about Jilly in her blog and the blog is accidentally posted on the school Intranet for everyone to read.

As Erin tries to pick up the pieces of this humiliating and hurtful situation, she begins to realize the importance of taking responsibility for her own actions. She works hard to regain the trust of her friends and at the same time, discovers an inner strength she didn't know she had.

As Erin says at the end: "Whatever happened, things would be okay. I would be okay."

Note from Denise This guide includes two sets of questions: Questions about the characters and story in *Click Here* and general questions about your real experiences as they might relate to the book.

Pick and choose among these two sets of questions to get your discussion going. You'll probably have some of your own questions as well. Have fun!



Questions about [CLICK HERE](#)

- ① Why does Erin punch Serena? What is she feeling? Do you feel this fit with Erin's character? Why or why not?
- ① Early in the book, Erin is at Jilly's house, delivering Jilly's map for her classes. Jilly suggests that Erin come to her house so they can walk to the bus stop together and Erin agrees, even though the bus stop is closer to her house. Then she notes that the walls felt like they'd pushed in closer. What was Erin feeling at this time and why?
- ① Describe Erin's relationship with her mother. What things help make it the kind of relationship it is?
- ① How does Erin's relationship with her brother change throughout the course of the book?
- ① What are some of the things Erin really wants in the beginning of the book? Does she still want these things in the end? Why or why not? Does she get them?
- ① Friendships play a large role in the book. Compare and contrast Erin and Jilly's friendship, Erin's friendship with Mark, with Rosie, and with Tyler. What are the similarities? The differences?
- ① When Erin stands up to Jilly by "choosing not to choose," she takes an important step toward becoming her own person. What did she risk by making this decision? How did she handle the consequences of her decision?
- ① When Erin asks her parents if she can stay home from school for a few days after the Blog Fiasco, they say no. How did Erin react to this? What would your parents have said? How would you have reacted?
- ① Do you believe Tyler really wrote the poem to Erin? Why or why not? Find evidence in the story to back up your opinion.
- ① Do you think Mr. Foslowksi helps Erin? Why or why not? What is the significance of the Tootsie Pops in Click Here?
- ① How does Erin's relationship with Serena change by the end of the book? How do you know?
- ① How has Erin changed by the end of the book?



General Questions

- ① Upper elementary school and middle school is a time of self-discovery as well as a time to find out where people fit in with their friends and family. When you or your friends have problems, how do you handle them? Does one person tend to be the one who is the peacemaker first? If so, why?
- ① Erin makes several mistakes in the book and has to own up to them and do something about them. Think of a time when you made a mistake that hurt someone else. What were the consequences? How did you handle it? Was there anything you wish you'd done differently in the way you handled it? If so, what?
- ① Which parts of the book could you relate to? Which parts were not things that are a part of your own life?
- ① Were any of the characters like people you know? In what ways?
- ① If your private thoughts were read by people at your school, what would happen? What would you do? Would you tell your parents? Why or why not?



Denise's Thoughts on **CLICK HERE**

I started writing the book in the spring of 2001. It was originally called *My Own Two Feet* and in it, Jilly had moved to another state, leaving Erin to fend for herself back home.

I had envisioned thirteen chapters--each covering a month--going from June of one year to June of the next. I wanted to use both narrative and e-mail messages to show Erin's growth as she becomes her own person. But it wasn't working.

During one of my many "conversations" with Erin, she told me Jilly hadn't moved away, that she still lived nearby. I couldn't believe it. Jilly moving away was the basis for the whole story! But then I found out that most middle schools have different "tracks" or "groups" so people could be separated from the friends they had in elementary school. Erin knew her story better than I did.

A few weeks later I was talking to my brother, who happened to mention blogs. Bingo! A blog would fit perfectly with Erin's love of computers and it would be a great way for us to get inside her head and heart.

The themes in *Click Here* are important ones for me, especially standing up for yourself and being assertive. I wasn't able to do that very often when I was young and no one told me that it was okay to speak up and that there are ways to speak up that aren't rude or disrespectful.

I also think it's very important to own up to your mistakes, to apologize, and ask for forgiveness. All of these themes will probably show up in different books that I write.

Note from Denise: I'm happy to be a part of your discussion and am available for a 20-minute Q&A in-person (Denver area) or via Skype.

For answers to frequently-asked questions or to read more, visit my website, www.denisevega.com

