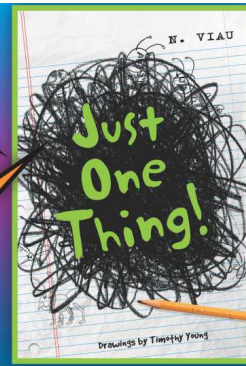


**KA-BOOM!**

ONE Antsy 5th-Grader  
ONE Embarrassing Nickname  
ONE Year to Change Things!  
ONE Way or Another  
**Ant Will Find**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JUST ONE THING!

WRITTEN BY NANCY VIAU    DRAWINGS BY TIMOTHY YOUNG

Teachers, please use and adapt these comprehension questions to fit the needs of your classroom.

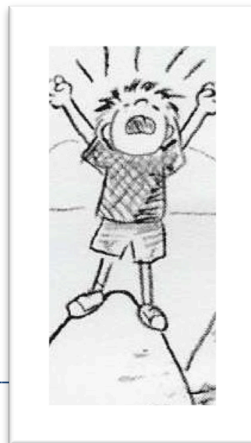
The questions are inspired by Stephanie Harvey and Anne Goudvis's *Strategies that Work*, and allow for practice with the following reading strategies: Making Connections, Questioning, Visualizing, Inferring, Determining Importance, Synthesizing.

### PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Look at the cover. What might be some important points in this book?

Glance through the book. What kind of book do you think this is going to be (quirky, funny, dramatic, sad, mysterious, etc.)?

Read the back. Make a prediction about the title's significance.



## DURING READING QUESTIONS

### CHAPTERS 1-3

- How would you describe Anthony Calvin Pantaloni?
- When Did Anthony's Cloud of Doom first appear? How did it grow?
- Nancy Viau uses specific details to make the setting realistic. For example, she mentions the Fifth Grade Math Assessment at the beginning of chapter two. What are some other details in chapters 1-3 that make the setting seem real and distinctive?
- Who is Cory Bennett?
- Who is Ella Wendy?
- What does Ant do with the calligraphy set? What would you have done with it?
- What did you draw in your Doodle section? Why?
- Where is Anthony's mom? How does Ant feel about that?
- What is Anthony most worried about?

What are some clues in *Just One Thing!* that support your belief?



### CHAPTERS 4-6

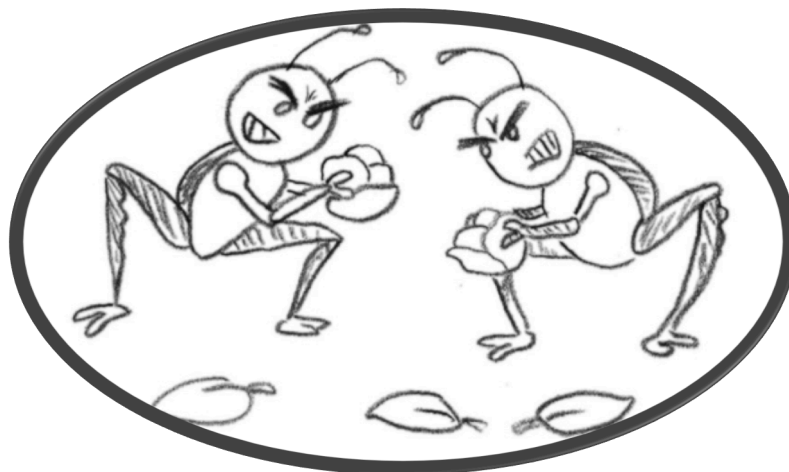
- What do notice about Anthony's drawings?  
When does he draw and why?
- How would you describe Anthony's and Marcus's friendship?
- Is the biome project similar to any project you have done?  
What do you think is going to happen with Anthony's biome project? Why?
- Why do you think Cory approaches Anthony at the end of chapter 5?



- Anthony has a few key character traits that make him different from other characters in the book. One of them is how he often thinks, *KA-BOOM!* What are some other traits? (Think of physical descriptions, personality, likes, dislikes, etc.)
- Do you think Ella Wendy is dramatic, a good observer, or both? Explain.
- What is your favorite scene so far? Why?

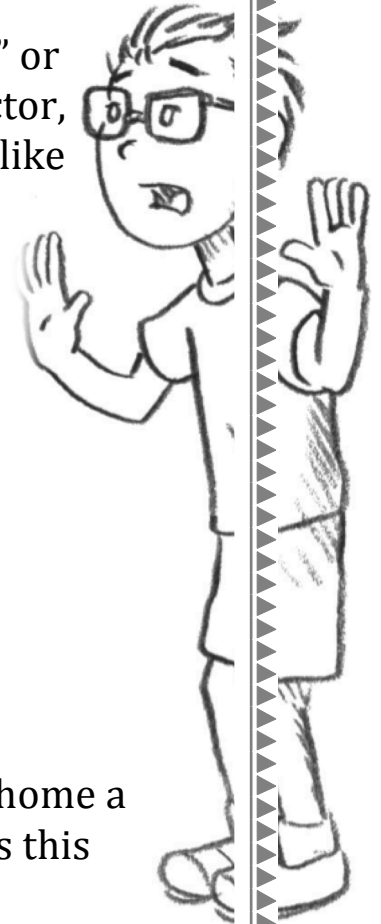
## CHAPTERS 7-9

- In chapter 7 when Ms. Dreyer is learning the class's names, Anthony is worried someone will blurt out *Antsy Pants* for him. Nancy Viau uses humor, such as: "The closer she gets to me, the drier my throat is. It's the Sahara in there." What are some other examples of humor throughout these chapters?
- In chapter 7, Anthony asks Wendy about identity. Do you think identity is wrapped around one thing? Why?
- List one adjective for each of the following characters: Anthony, Mrs. Merriweather, Lexie, Alicia, Cory, Wendy, Dad
- How does the title of the book fit with these chapters?
- How do Anthony's doodles help him deal with things that bother him and what he really wants? Have they changed at all since the beginning of the book?



## CHAPTERS 10-12

- In chapter 10, Lexie tells Anthony that he's like a knight in shining armor. Do you agree with this sentiment? Why or why not?
- Why does Ms. Dreyer make Anthony read the lunch menu on the blackboard?
- A simile makes a comparison using the words "like" or "as." In chapter 11 when Anthony visits the eye doctor, Nancy Viau wrote, "They make my eyes feel goeey, like they've been coated with melted butter." Can you find another example of simile in these chapters?
- How does Anthony feel about his new glasses? What does Cory do?
- Were you surprised by the ending of chapter 12? Why or why not?



## CHAPTERS 13-15

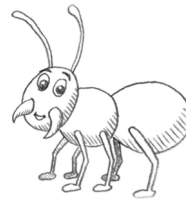
- Why do you think Cory calls people names?
- What do you think Anthony's one thing will be?
- When Dad goes to Philly and says he'll be bringing home a surprise, what does Anthony hope it will be? Why is this important?
- Why do you think Nancy Viau made Ella Wendy and Anthony cousins instead of siblings? How would that change the story?
- How does Ella Wendy help Anthony to view Cory differently?
- What is significant about Ella Wendy's drama teacher and Anthony's fifth grade teacher?
- How does Anthony react to Dad's news? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?



- What would you do in this situation if you were Anthony? How would you handle it?
- How is Anthony's and Cory's relationship changing? Do you think it will get better or worse?

## CHAPTERS 16-18

- What are some of different things has Anthony has tried so far to be his "one thing?" Why do you think none of them are working? How will he know when he finds the thing he does well?
- Do Ant's doodles help you to visualize the story more? Explain.
- Why is the calligraphy set important in chapter 17?
- There's a famous saying: Appearances can be deceiving. How do Anthony's thoughts and actions in chapter 18 address this quote?
- What does Anthony learn from Crystal about finding that one thing to call his own?



## CHAPTERS 19-22

- Why do you think Nancy Viau included the happy surprise for Ella Wendy during the performance?
- In chapter 20, Anthony and Dad are talking about Anthony's guitar-playing when the phone interrupts them. Who do you think is on the phone?
- Do you think Cory's explanation for the mascot idea was reasonable? Explain.
- Is Anthony's one thing right for him? Why or why not?
- In chapter 22, Nana tells Anthony, "How creative of you to draw yourself sitting on top of the world. Speaks volumes,



Anthony. Volumes.” What do you think she means? Think back to the scene when Anthony visits the museum in Philadelphia. How do these two parts connect?

- In what ways is this ending satisfying?
- How did the ending and final doodle make you feel?

### POST-READING QUESTIONS

Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not?

If you could read the same story from another character’s point of view, who would you choose and why?

Look back through Ant’s doodles. Which one is your favorite? Why?

Look back through *your* doodles. Which one is your favorite? Share it with someone.

*For more information on Nancy's books, school and library visits, and her current schedule, please visit [www.NancyViau.com](http://www.NancyViau.com).*

