

Discussing Emma's Question Suggestions for Teachers

When I speak with young students about *Emma's Question* I focus on the importance of talking about things that are scary or sad—even when we don't feel like it. I also talk about visiting someone in the hospital, an experience that can be scary for a lot of children. I hope the following guide is helpful in your classroom discussions.

When someone we love is really sick, we feel lots of things. We might feel scared or worried. We might feel sad. And we might feel angry. We might be so upset that we don't feel like talking. Maybe we feel like crawling under a blanket and never coming out. But when we don't talk about our problems, they don't go away; they just feel bigger and bigger and BIGGER.

- In the book, Emma has a BIG question. Did you guess what the question was?
- Emma says she doesn't want to talk about Grandma—even when Mama asks her to. Why do you think Emma doesn't want to talk about Grandma or ask her hard question?
- How does Emma feel when she keeps stopping herself from asking the question?
- When the question pops out, is Grandma angry? What does she say?
- Does saying something out loud—like the word *die*—make it happen?
- Does Emma seem to feel better or worse after she and Grandma have their talk?
- Does anyone know the real name for the piece of equipment that Grandma calls her “dancing partner?” *The real name for this piece of equipment is IV. IV is short for intravenous, like TV is short for television. An IV is a tiny plastic tube that a nurse or doctor puts into a patient's blood vein to give her fluids (like water) or medicine. The other end of the tube is attached to bags of fluid or medicine that often hang from a rack beside the patient. Doctors use IVs when it's too hard for the patient to eat or drink in the usual way—or when a medicine will work better or faster than if the person eats or drinks it.*
- (www.kidshealthgalaxy.com)
- What are some fun things Emma and Grandma can do together—even when Grandma is sick?
- When someone we love is sick, what can we do to help?