

***Firegirl* by Tony Abbott**

<http://www.bcsc.k12.in.us/1592206413495030/lib/1592206413495030/Firegirl.pdf>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Choose and answer 12 of the following questions

(If question is related to a specific chapter, chapter is in parenthesis following question)

1. How does Tom change throughout the book?
2. Describe the things that Tom realizes about his friend Jeff.
3. After seeing Jessica's picture, rumors start about her. Describe a time when rumors were spread about a person you know. How did the person react?
4. Research severe burns, skin grafting, or another related medical issue from the book. Share what you learned about the topic.
5. If you could choose any car to ride in, which one would it be and why?
6. Why did Jessica say she hated her mother? (p. 86)
7. Why do you think Jessica said the picture was of her sister? (chapter 11, chapter 14)
8. How do you think the divorce of Jeff's parents affected how he behaved toward Jessica?
9. Tom is a pretty quiet kid. The only person he really talks to is his friend Jeff, who doesn't listen to him anyway. Tom's mom tells him he needs to "get out there". What do you think she means? What are some ways you "get out there"?
10. It's obvious that Tom has a crush on Courtney – every day he daydreams about saving her life. Why do you think Tom imagines he's a superhero? What do you think of his "small powers" like being about to skip really fast or having an indestructible finger? If you could choose a superpower, what would it be and why? Why do you think Tom chose "small powers"?
11. Mrs. Tracy decides to hold elections for Tom's class and allow everyone to vote. Do you like this idea? Would you run for class president? How would you campaign, and what would you say in your speech?
12. When Jessica Feeney arrives in Tom's class, all the students are speechless. Some are even disgusted. Why would they act that way? What do you think makes them afraid? How do you think you would act if you met Jessica?
13. While all the other students talk about Jessica behind her back, Tom feels awful about it. He wants to tell them to stop, but he can't. What makes it so hard for Tom to tell them to stop talking about Jessica? Why do you think he cares? Would you tell your fellow students to stop talking about someone that way? What would they say?
14. At St. Catherine's, some of the students give Jessica a hard time. Jeff doesn't want to hold her hand, and some kids say mean things about her behind her back. Why do you think Jessica still wants to go to school with other kids? Do you think she's a stronger person because of it? If you were Jessica, would you go to St Catherine's?

15. Tom hardly ever talks to anyone besides Jeff, not even his parents. But the few times he goes to Jessica's house, he starts to tell her things he's never told anyone else. Why is he able to open up to Jessica? Why do you think she understands him? In what ways are Tom and Jessica alike?
16. Jeff complains to Tom about his parents' divorce because his dad doesn't seem to want to see him and his mom is too busy working. Name some of Jeff's actions that show he's angry at his parents. What are some better ways for him to deal with the divorce? Do you know of a friend whose parents are divorced? What effects has this had on how your friend deals with his or her parents? Would you be angry if you were in Jeff's place? Why or why not?
17. Although Jessica was only in Tom's life for a few weeks, she made a big impact on his life. After she leaves, Tom feels like a completely different person. How do you think meeting Jessica changed Tom's view of life? What do you think happened to Tom? Has there been a person in your life who has changed in the same way?