

Dexter the Tough
By Margaret Peterson Haddix

Discussion Questions

1. Why was Dexter so angry on the first day of school?
2. How would you characterize the relationship between Dexter and Robin at the beginning of the story? What similarities and differences did they share?
3. What difficult choices did Dexter's parents have to make? What did you think of those choices? How would you have chosen?
4. Why was Dexter so upset about the principal asking him "Where are your parents?" How would you have felt if you were Dexter?
5. How does Dexter change or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger such changes?
6. What was the underlined problem in Dexter's life throughout this story? How was it resolved?
7. In Chapter 9, what was Dexter referring to when he said: "I thought they were going to give you the marshmallow transplant".
8. What were you thinking when Ms. Abbott accused Dexter of not telling the truth about his story being fiction?
9. In Chapter 12, what were the reasons Dexter felt Robin should not complain about his life?
10. At the end of the story would you characterize Dexter and Robin as friends? If yes, what do you think drew them closer together? If no, what kept them from considering each other a friend?
11. Why do you think the author wrote this story? What is her most important message?