DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read the rules at the beginning of the book. Do you think these are fair to everyone? Why or why not?

2. How do the lemmings define being distinguished? What do you think it means to be distinguished?

3. Some distinguished lemmings perform long, serious plays, while others play the piano or badminton. If you were a lemming, what sorts of distinguished activities would you do every day?

4. The lemmings won’t allow the bear to be a part of their Society because he’s not “distinguished enough.” Do you think it’s fair not to include someone in a group because they aren’t like others? Why or why not?

5. The lemmings discover that the bear isn’t quite good at the things they like to do. Instead, he’s good at what he likes to do. What are some things you’re good at?

6. Describe a time when a friend of yours shared a fun new activity with you. How did it feel to try something new?

7. Are you part of a group or club that has a set of rules? If so, what sorts of rules do you follow? Are they similar to any of the lemmings’ rules?

8. Have you ever broken a rule? What were the consequences?

9. Bertie helps the other lemmings see that the bear is distinguished in his own way and deserves to be a part of the Society. How do you think the lemmings will react to other new friends from now on?

10. Make a list of rules for your own distinguished society. What would your society be called?

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