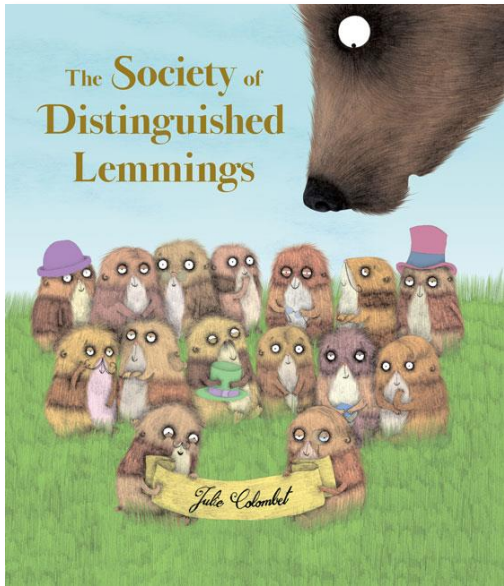




PEACHTREE

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



## The Society of Distinguished Lemmings

Written and illustrated by  
Julie Colombet

### ABOUT THE BOOK

The Society of Distinguished Lemmings aims to be distinguished in absolutely everything. It takes an awful lot of rules to be so distinguished, including: no rolling around, no climbing about, and certainly no splashing in the mud! But Bertie has had quite enough of the society and all its rules. After venturing outside, Bertie discovers a bear, who is very unlike a lemming. With the bear's help, Bertie learns that prancing about in the wild is quite a lot of fun! But when the other lemmings find out about the bear, they decide everything about him will have to change if he's ever to fit in. Will the Society ever accept Bertie's new friend, or is the bear simply too big and clumsy of a creature to be distinguished?

### 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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