



**Emma-Jean
Lazarus
Fell In Love**
by Lauren Tarshis

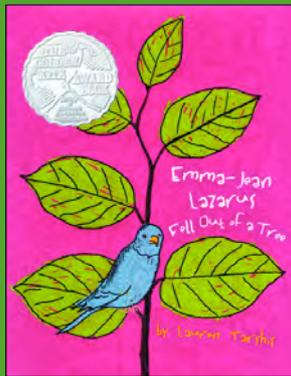
HC: 978-0-8037-3321-3 • \$16.99
Ages 10-14 • Grades 5-9

Love is in the air at William Gladstone William School, and even logical Emma-Jean Lazarus feels swept away. There's a strange fluttering in her heart whenever she thinks of Will Keeler, and Colleen receives a mysterious love note. Will Emma-Jean ask Will to the big dance? Can she find Colleen's secret admirer? And will everyone's dreams come true?



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**Emma-Jean
Lazarus
Fell Out
of a Tree**
by Lauren Tarshis

HC: 978-0-8037-3164-6 • \$16.99
PB: 978-0-14-241150-6 • \$6.99
Ages 10-14 • Grades 5-9

Above all, Emma-Jean Lazarus is rational and logical. She observes her fellow seventh-graders from afar, until she walks in on Colleen Pomerantz. When Emma-Jean tries to help, both girls find friendship where it might have seemed least likely.

★ *School Library Journal* starred review

★ *Publishers Weekly* starred review

A *School Library Journal* Best of the Year Book

A *Publishers Weekly* Best of the Year Book

A SCBWI Golden Kite Award Honor Winner

An E.B. White Award Finalist

Finalist for five state children's choice awards



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HOW TO START YOUR OWN BOOK CLUB

Think it would be hard to start your own book club? Think again! All you need are some friends who are as excited about the books they read as you are and a little bit of organization.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED:

The best way to find people to be in your book club is to ask your friends. Think of all the people you know who like to read, and ask them to join. If you still don't feel like you have enough people, ask each of your friends to bring someone else. You can usually get a good discussion going with 6–8 people, but any number that is comfortable for you will work. If you're having trouble finding enough cool people to form your club, check with your school, local library, or bookstore to see if there's a group that you can join.

Figure out when and where you want to meet.

Some groups meet once a month, some meet every other month. You could get together at someone's house, in a park, on the beach, or in your school's library. If it sounds too official and overwhelming to decide all the "wheres" and "whens" right now, don't worry! It's YOUR group, so YOU get to make all the decisions. All you have to do is get together once and you can work out the rest of the details later.

Decide how you will choose books, and how the discussions will be run.

Maybe you have a favorite author that you and your friends would like to focus on. Or maybe you want to take turns picking your favorite book. Maybe one person likes to talk and would like to lead the discussion, or maybe you would rather just get together and talk about the books you are reading. If you get stuck, you can often find discussion questions online (try the publisher's website) or at your local library or bookstore.

The most important thing to remember is that there's no right or wrong way to have a book club. Do what you're comfortable with and always have fun, and your group will be a success!

For more discussion guides to get your group going, visit

www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians

Discussion guide ISBN: 978-0-8037-3424-1



DISCUSSION GUIDE



ABOUT THE BOOKS



EMMA-JEAN LAZARUS FELL IN LOVE

Emma-Jean is experiencing something new and unsettling, but not entirely unpleasant. It's a fluttering in her heart when she imagines herself asking Will to the seventh-grade dance. Her best friend Colleen is worried that Will might laugh if Emma-Jean invites him. After all, Emma-Jean is a *different* kind of girl—certainly different from queen-bee Laura, who has always claimed Will for herself. Maybe Colleen can distract Emma-Jean from this risky plan by recruiting her for a top-secret investigation. You see, Colleen has an anonymous admirer, and if Emma-Jean can help her figure out who he is, then *Colleen* could ask *him* to the dance.



EMMA-JEAN LAZARUS FELL OUT OF A TREE

Above all, Emma-Jean Lazarus is logical. She admires her fellow seventh graders, but their behavior is so irrational and perplexing. Emma-Jean has always kept her distance, content to observe them from afar. But one day Emma-Jean discovers kind and cheerful Colleen Pomerantz sobbing in the girls' room, and Emma-Jean can't just stand by and do nothing. Disaster strikes when Emma-Jean tries to solve Colleen's problem, but something else happens too, something most unexpected: Logical Emma-Jean and heartfelt Colleen become friends.

COMMENDATIONS RECEIVED:

- ★ *School Library Journal* starred review
- ★ *Publishers Weekly* starred review

A *School Library Journal* Best of the Year Book • A *Publishers Weekly* Best of the Year Book

A SCBWI Golden Kite Award Honor Winner • An E.B. White Award Finalist

A New York Public Library Book for Reading and Sharing • A Chicago Public Library Best Book

Finalist for five state children's choice awards

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Lauren Tarshis lives in Connecticut with her husband and four children. She is the editor of Scholastic's *Storyworks* magazine. *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree* was her first book and received numerous awards and honors, including the Golden Kite Award Honor. Visit her online at

www.laurentarshis.com.

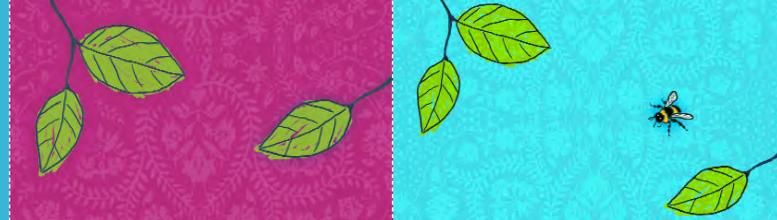
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you think it's possible to keep yourself completely separate from the people around you? How has Emma-Jean kept her distance from her fellow classmates and what happens to change that?
- How does the way Emma-Jean observes the world around her and thinks about situations differ from the way her classmates do? How does her unique perspective help her and how does it make things more difficult for her?
- What does Colleen think is important? How does her attitude toward people and things affect what happens in each story?
- What do you think about the way Emma-Jean handles the problems of her classmates? Do you think she deals with the issues that come up in the right way? What information does she miss because of the way she thinks? How would you handle these situations?
- What do you think of Laura? How do her actions affect the people around her? What is the difference in the reactions that Emma-Jean and Colleen have to Laura?
- How do Emma-Jean and Colleen influence each other's reactions to different situations, and how have they changed as a result of their friendship?
- Why does Emma-Jean Lazarus think that Will Keeler is an honorable person? Do you agree?
- In *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love*, everyone seems to be getting crushes! What are Colleen's and Emma-Jean's reactions to the thought of having crushes? How do they understand what a "crush" is and what are each of their thoughts on having a crush?
- How does Colleen act after getting a secret love letter? How does her perspective on situations change as a result? How does she react when the secret of the love letter isn't a secret anymore? What are the positive and negative things that come from Colleen's secret love letters?
- What does Colleen think it means to be a good friend. How is she a good friend? How is Emma-Jean a good friend? What do they learn about friendship from each other and from the situations in each story?



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