

Double Dutch Study Guide

The following questions could be used for small group discussions, whole class discussions, or short answer written questions.	Common Core Standard(s)
1. Double Dutch begins with a discussion of the characters' fear of the Tolliver twins. Trace how the idea of fear and the result of fear is developed by the author throughout the story.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 RL.6-12.5
2. The twins use intimidation and fear to terrorize the school. Analyze the names Titan and Tabu. Why are their names intimidating? What other factors about the twins make them seem dangerous and deadly. Support your answer with details from the story.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 RL.6-12.3 RL.6-12.4
3. Why is the television program on which the twins appear an effective way to increase their negative reputation? Discuss the effect of these kinds of talk shows.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
4. Yolanda is a humorous character because she tells tall tales and exaggerates. Basically, she is a liar. Discuss, by using other characters in the story, how lies and deception can have serious consequences. How can the character of Yolanda be justified if lying is a negative trait?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
5. Many of the characters are hiding secrets. Tell how each of the characters listed below have secrets that they are hiding from others and explain how those secrets caused problems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Titan and Tabu ○ Delia ○ Randy ○ Yolanda ○ Delia's parents 	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
6. Double Dutch is more than just a story about jumping rope. Discuss how the title can have more than one interpretation. Find all examples of "double" ideas and events in the story.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.4 W.6-12.1
7. The tornado is a natural disaster that brings about a number of plot developments. Explain how the tornado can be interpreted as a "character" that affects the rest of the characters and events in the book.	RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
8. Families often have difficulties and young people must cope with the situations that arise. Discuss the relationship between the following and discuss the strengths of their families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delia and her mother ○ Delia and her father ○ Randy and his father ○ Bomani and his family 	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
9. A powerful friendship can often make a difference in the lives of young	RL.6-12.1

people. Discuss how Delia's friendship with Yolanda and Randy made a difference in her life. What might have happened if Yolanda and Randy had not been real friends to Delia?	RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
10. Delia's problem is that she cannot read, yet she is obviously very intelligent. Give examples of Delia's intelligence and show how she was able to escape detection for so long.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 RL.6-12.3
11. Double Dutch is a popular team sport. Discuss how organized sports and athletic events are positive activities. Trace how the sport of Double Dutch was helpful in the lives of the following characters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delia ○ Randy ○ Misty ○ Yolanda 	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
12. Minor characters are often very important in the development of a story. Discuss how the following characters made a difference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Clifford ○ Bomani ○ Miss Benson ○ Mrs. Parks 	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 RL.6-12.5
13. What predictions can you make about the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delia and the test ○ Delia and Double Dutch ○ Delia and Randy ○ Tabu and Titan at school ○ Yolanda and the twins ○ Randy and his father 	RL.6-12.2 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
The following questions are designed to be individual writing projects or small group writing projects depending upon the needs of your classroom.	Common Core Standard(s)
Newspaper Article <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a TV show where Randy and his father are reunited. 2. Pretend you are a TV reporter at the scene of the tornado. 3. Pretend you are a TV reporter at the scene of the Double Dutch tournament. 	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4
Point of View Paper <p>"Clutching the flyer, he ran out suddenly, leaving Delia sitting alone on the bleachers, listening to the echoes of all the victories and defeats that gym had witnessed--including her own."</p> <p>Write a narrative paper from the point of view of the gym. Tell what kinds of games were played, the kind of people that sat and watched, the athletes that played, the food that was sold, etc. Take any aspect of "the life of a gym" and develop it.</p>	RL.6-12.6 W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4 W.6-12.9
Descriptive Paper <p>"The tension in the small gym sizzled like dangling electric lines--hot and fiery."</p> <p>"Soon nothing could be heard but the tapping of her shoes and the whirling of the</p>	RL.6-12.5 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4

<p>ropes as they made a breeze in the corner of the gym."</p> <p>"It was the test. It was rumbling down the road like a runaway truck, and she was standing helplessly directly in its path."</p> <p>"He thought about real fear and how it was slipping like smoke under his door, into his space, and throughout his body."</p> <p>Write a descriptive paper using one of the four sentences above, or choose another sentence of your own, as a starter. Use vivid verbs and powerful adjectives and adverbs as you write. Use as many of the senses as you can (sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste).</p>	
<p>Research Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate more about the sport of Double Dutch. Learn the rules and regulations and learn the steps required. Have a Double Dutch tournament at your school. Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding divorce to help support your argument. Be sure to cite your sources used. 2. Investigate tornadoes or hurricanes as storms of destruction. Find out how they are formed, what causes them, and what their effects are upon the people that are involved in such a storm. Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding divorce to help support your argument. Be sure to cite your sources used. 3. Investigate TV talk shows. How real are the people that appear on the shows, and how are they chosen? Why are such shows popular? Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding divorce to help support your argument. Be sure to cite your sources used. 4. Investigate reading problems such as dyslexia. What are the causes and cures? What academic difficulties are encountered? How can a student with reading problems be helped? Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding divorce to help support your argument. Be sure to cite your sources used. 5. Write a paper that investigates the effects of divorce on young people. You may discuss custody, adjustment, or financial situations. Show the results of the effects of divorce on school, personal, and social situations. You may show both positive and negative results. Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding divorce to help support your argument. Be sure to cite your sources used. 	<p>W.6-12.1 W.6-12.2 W.6-12.4 W.6-12.7 W.6-12.8 W.6-12.9 RI.6-12.1 RI.6-12.2 RI.6-12.4 RI.6-12.8</p>
<p>Persuasive Paper</p> <p>"We are instituting some new policies here at the school. It is happening all over the country, so don't think you're being picked on, and don't think you're special. First of</p>	<p>W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4</p>

<p>all, this weekend a metal detector will be installed at the front door." Write a persuasive paper that argues the following point. "Metal detectors are useful and necessary and should be installed in all schools to insure safety." You may agree or disagree with the statement, but you may only argue one side of the issue.</p>	
<p>Comparison "Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between the truth and a lie," Delia mused. "And it doesn't really matter who believes it." Write a comparison paper on the difference between truths and lies, on the difference between what is real and what is believed. Use examples from the book to support your statements.</p>	<p>W.6-12.1 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.9</p>
<p>Expository Essay "Double Dutch requires an intricate display of skill, agility, and strength. It encourages creativity, teamwork and sportsmanship, and develops physical fitness and mental discipline." Write an expository (explanatory) paper on a sport. Tell how the game is played, give some of the rules, and explain why it is successful as an enjoyable physical activity.</p>	<p>RL.6-12.1 W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4</p>
<p>Conversation/Dialogue</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a skit similar to the one that the students produced for class. 2. Create a skit that acts out the reunion of the characters in ten years. 	<p>RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4</p>
<p>Poetry Write a poem about one of the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Secrets and Lies o Fear of the Unknown o Forever Friends o The Joy of the Jump o Storms and Destruction o The Dance of Divorce 	<p>RL.6-12.4 W.6-12.3</p>
<p>Literary Analysis Read the novel <i>Lord of the Flies</i>. Use what you have learned reading both novels to write an essay that provides an analysis of what you think the authors are saying about fear and violence, as the students did in Miss Benson's class. Develop your essay by providing textual evidence from both texts. Be sure to follow the conventions of standard English.</p>	<p>RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 RL.6-12.4 RL.6-12.5 RL.6-12.7 W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4 W.6-12.9</p>