**HOW TO ROCK BRACES AND GLASSES**

**By Meg Haston**

**LOUISIANA YOUNG READERS’ CHOICE NOMINEE 2014**

**GRADE 6-8**

**Study Guide and Discussion Questions**

*Submitted by: Melodie Franklin, Youth Services Librarian, Lafayette Public Library, Lafayette, LA*

**Title: How to Rock Braces and Glasses**

**Author: Meg Haston**

**Publisher: Little Brown and Company**

**Pages: 324**

**SUMMARY**

Things couldn’t be better for Kacey Simon. It’s her last year in middle school and she couldn’t be more popular, cute or more on the cutting edge of style, fashion and just everything! She’s the star of “Simon Says,” a weekly hard-hitting advice segment put on by Marquette Middle School’s TV station. She’s landed a lead part in the school’s spring musical, “Guys and Dolls,” opposite her crush Quinn Wilder, who she gets to kiss in the play! She has the most supportive, (or so it seems) group of besties a girl could ask for. Then the unimaginable happens…she ends up with coke bottle glasses and a set of bright metal braces that in turn cause her to lisp! How’d that happen? More importantly, how will she survive!?

This book is a page turner that will bring you through the harsh realities of life in middle school…catty boys, cattier girls and the rollercoaster ride from being a total hot and wanted babe to being the complete anti-societal geek you once shunned. See how this journey makes Kacey stronger, more compassionate and a better person and friend for having seen both sides of the social spectrum.

**AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHY**

Meg Haston calls Jacksonville, Florida home since that’s where she endured 7th through 12th grades where, yes, she rocked glasses and braces! She traveled much before settling in Jacksonville and since she’s graduated from high school, she’s traveled much since but continues to call Jacksonville her true home. She aspired to be many things like an astronaut, glitzy movie star, cultural anthropologist and sassy ice dancer but found her calling in writing and therapy. Find out more about her at <http://alloyentertainment.com/authors/meg-haston/meg-haston-bio/>.

**OTHER TITLES BY AUTHOR**

*How to Rock Break-ups and Make-ups* (2012)

**RELATED TITLES**

*Girls Acting Catty* by Leslie Margolis, Bloomsbury, 2009. 179p

*Smile* by Raina Telgemeier, Graphix, 2012. 224p, Winner of Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor 2010, Eisner Award 2011.

*The Allegra Biscotti Collection* by Olivia Bennett, Sourcebooks, 2010. 256p.

*Reel Life Starring Us* by Lisa Greenwald, Abrams, 2011, 304p.

**CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS**

**English/Language Arts—Drama**

Kacey is the star of “Simon Says”. Put on a production of a TV news show.

* Create a broadcast news package

<http://www.hsj.org/modules/lesson_plans/detail.cfm?LessonPlanId=476&menu_id=&submenu_id=&module_id=2>

* BBC School News Report—Teacher resources

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport/16050853>

* PBS NewsHour Special—Lesson plans

<http://www.studentreportinglabs.com/lesson-plans>

* Digital Wish—Lesson plans

<http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/view_lesson_plans?keyword=news%20broadcast>

**History/Political Science**

One of Kacey’s friends, Paige is running for student government president…Put on a mock run for a political office.

* 2012 Presidential election overview unit

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/27/our-election-2012-unit-an-overview/>

* Final Week before elections unit

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/31/teaching-the-election-in-the-final-week-bellwethers-unicorns-and-attack-ads/>

* Several lesson plans and classroom activities involving elections

<http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/election.shtml>

* Election activities

<http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Elections/>

**Business/Economics**

Kacey’s friend Liv Parrillo has an accessory and clothing line which Kacey promotes on her show. How would you start a small business and make it successful?

* Teaching kids business—activities

<http://www.teachingkidsbusiness.com/how-to-start-your-own-business.htm>

* Entrepreneurial kids on ThinkQuest

<http://library.thinkquest.org/11sep-oracle-82/746218557/>

* Online income teacher—Strategies to encourage kids to start their own online business

<http://onlineincometeacher.com/business-tips/kids-to-start-their-own-business-online/>

* Biz kids offers several videos that promote entrepreneurship

<http://bizkids.com/themes/entrepreneurship>

* Business Guide for kids offers several links to sites that encourage kids into entrepreneurship and invention

<http://www.businessinsurance.org/business-guide-for-kids/>

**Health Science**

Kacey is in the “in crowd” or clique. Teens deal with a lot of peer pressure. There are several online lesson plans about dealing with peer pressure. Here is one from Discovery Education. Although I could not find the link for the “Big Decisions” video that accompanies this lesson plan, the materials are still relevant and this has good classroom activities and additional resources

<http://www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/free-lesson-plans/big-decisions.cfm>.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What was the name of the play that Kacey was to star in?
2. Kacey claimed to be the friend who would tell the “cold, hard” truth. Were her comments sometimes nasty and harmful instead of helpful? Would you appreciate a friend like that? Is there a better way to tell your friends the truth?
3. What was the name of the advice segment Kacey did for the Marquette Middle School TV? Who was the person on after her and what was the name of that person’s segment?
4. Kacey wore a special pair of contact lenses which caused her eye infection. What color were they? What was the consequence of her wearing those contacts?
5. At what event did Kacey fall? What was the result of her falling?
6. Who became the ring leader of the “it” girls after Kacey’s fall from grace?
7. What was the name of the band that asked Kacey to join after the lead in the play was given to Molly?
8. What office was Paige running for? Had she ever tried to run for a SGA position before? What was the end result?
9. What was the name of the group’s favorite meeting place? What types of items were sold there?
10. What did Kacey’s mom do for a living?
11. Do you think you would like being the ring leader of the “it” girls or guys at your school? Why or Why not?