

1. If you could have any pet, a baby pygmy goat or an iguana included, what kind of pet would you want? How would you take care of this animal?
2. How does Rica demonstrate responsibility at the party and throughout the book? Did you think she would make a good pet owner?
3. Before the poetry reading, Rica is both terrified and excited. She's even scared of winning and feels like it would be easier if no one she knows comes to the bookstore. Have you had a similar experience of being both nervous and excited for something, especially in front of a crowd? How did you overcome those feelings?
4. Through most of the book, Rica calls Serenity annoying and the very worst cousin. Does Serenity seem annoying to you, or does she make some good points and help Rica out? Why do you think it is important to have someone who is encouraging and honest with you, even if you don't really want to hear it?
5. In the end, Rica's poem is about taking a swing (even if you miss), because if you don't, you'll never hit a home run. Why is it so important to give things a try, even if you might fail? Can you think of any examples from your life?

