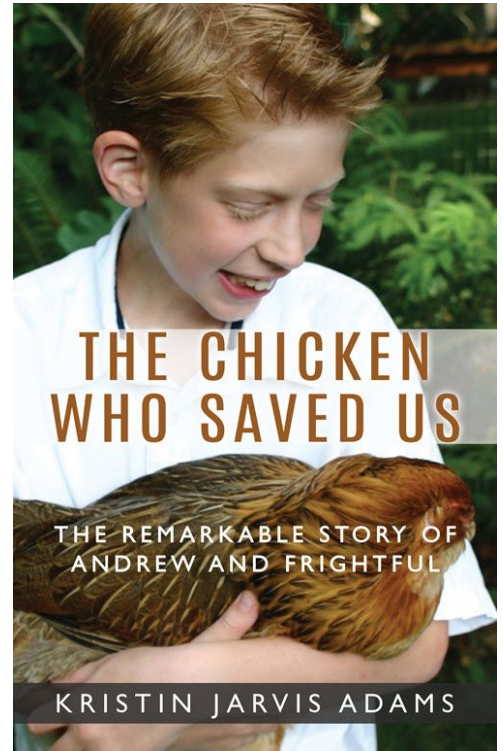


## The Chicken Who Saved Us Discussion Questions

1. Do you think it's important for children to grow up with pets? If so, why?
2. Research shows that the human-animal bond can aid in healing from stroke, injury, and PTSD. Pets can also lower blood pressure, and alleviate anxiety and depression. Have you experienced a special bond with an animal that helped you to heal?
3. Why do you think it was easier for Andrew to communicate with Frightful as opposed to his parents or another family member?
4. *The Chicken Who Saved Us* touches on the stresses of raising an autistic child. Do you know anyone raising a special needs child? Do you think it's easier today than it was 20 years ago when Andrew was entering school?
5. How was Hannah affected by her brother's recurring illness? Would you have parented in a different way?
6. Have you ever had to make a life or death decision for a loved one?
7. Kristin describes an unexpected encounter at the grocery store with a woman who filled her cart with food, purchased it and sent her home, saying, "You are taken care of tonight. Bless you." Has anyone ever shown you a random act of kindness? How did it make you feel?
8. What are tangible things you can do to help a friend in crisis?
9. Kristin began questioning her faith as she moved through her son's health crisis. What is your view on faith, and how has it changed throughout your life?
10. After a desperate midnight phone call to a local church, Pastor Becki encourages Kristin to accept help from others. What did she mean by, "You will have people now, people who can hold you, your family, and your story."
11. Sue becomes Andrew's closest human friend. How was her relationship different than Frightful, and in what ways was it similar?
12. What did Sue's stories offer Andrew that simple conversation could not?
13. At what point in the story does Andrew turn to superheroes as a way of connecting with



his feelings? Why superheroes?

14. What is the significance of Shadow the Hedgehog? Why does Andrew relate to this video game character as opposed to any other character?
15. Raising a special needs child with the addition of a medical crisis, can easily fracture a family. What do you think allowed Jon and Kristin to function well as a team?
16. In the book, Kristin refers to her relationship with Jon as “extreme tag-team parenting.” Have you ever put your marriage on hold while dealing with transition or crisis? How did you navigate through it?
17. What would you sacrifice for your children?
18. At the urging of a friend, Kristin visits Leah, an art therapist. Leah’s approach to therapy was a deeply profound way for her to get in touch with her fears. Where do you turn when you need to make sense of your life?
19. Are dreams important to you? Kristin shares her frequent dreams of a lake, stating that she always had two friends with her. Who do you think they were?
20. At one point, Kristin asks Frightful who she is. What do you think?
21. Near the end of the book, Kristin admits that healing for her is an ongoing process. When she let go of her need for a perfect life, she was able to embrace her “new normal.” What does that mean to you?
22. After reading *The Chicken Who Saved Us*, what themes stand out the most? What could you relate to?