

# **Lemonade Mouth: Adapted Movie Tie-in Edition Study Guide**

**Lemonade Mouth: Adapted Movie Tie-in Edition by Mark Peter Hughes**

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# Plot Summary

When five students who don't know each other meet in detention, one of them spontaneously starts to play along to a jingle on the radio. When the others pick up instruments, join in, and start to sing along, a crazy synergy comes into existence among them. The music teacher, who's running the detention, is impressed by the rare and unique fusion. She convinces the five students to work together as a band and when they start to get really popular, they upset the settled order in their school, where only a few students are popular, and only the adults make decisions that affect everyone.

The five students who meet in detention are all sensitive students who don't fit in with the popular group. Charlie is a bit of a dreamer, who hears the voice of the twin brother who was born dead; Mo is a high-achiever who plays bass; Stella is a misfit who just moved to Rhode Island from Arizona; Wen (for Wendell) is a moody young boy whose father is in the midst of remarrying; and Olivia is being raised by her grandmother, since her mother left, and her father is in prison. They all end up in detention for various reasons, but when the music teacher leaves the room to take a phone call, they all start jamming to the tune of the jingle on the radio. When Mrs. Reznik returns, she stands in the doorway, stunned by the synergy she has just witnessed.

Mrs. Reznik calls the five students into the basement music room the next day, and tells them that she has signed them up for the Talent Show. She says they have a gift, and appeals to their desire to stand out from the rest of the student body. There is some tension in the school between the popular kids, who play sports and the other kids, whose clubs are all located in the basement. These kids know each other by their affinity for Mel's Lemonade, as there is a lemonade vending machine in the basement.

When the group gets together to practice, Stella takes charge, but the other kids don't appreciate her taste for political music. They are about to walk away when Wen starts to play on the trumpet, and they all fall into place around his sound. This is the First Lemonade Mouth Miracle.

The band gets their name when Stella stands up for another student by spraying lemonade all over the popular bully who's harassing him: he says he wasn't doing anything, but Lemonade Mouth sprayed him. Lemonade Mouth has made some enemies with Mudslide Crush, the popular band made up of juniors and seniors. They are used to playing all the gigs themselves, and resent Lemonade Mouth's intrusion on the stage at the Halloween Bash.

When the Bash comes, though, Lemonade Mouth impresses everyone, and they close their set with a political statement about the state of the lemonade machines, which have been removed because the school signed a funding deal with a soda company. This brings down the wrath of Mr. Brenigan, the assistant principal, and he bans the band from playing at the Holiday Talent Show.



The band nonetheless gets gigs at Bruno's Pizza, and in spite of setbacks and obstacles, rises in popularity. Their music gets onto the radio station (the AV kids had recorded the concert at the Halloween Bash) and now Stella has ambitions to play in the Catch A RI-Zing Star talent contest.

All the while, the five band members are troubled by insecurities or unrequited affections, and while none of the five get together, just yet, Olivia has a thing for Wen, and Charlie has a thing for Mo, and as things develop, these crushes start to seem plausible.

The novel builds toward the Catch A RI-Zing Star talent show, which takes place in the Providence Civic Center, which holds 14,000 people, and will be broadcast on TV. Every one of the members of Lemonade Mouth has a disaster before this show. Mo gets sick; Charlie, the drummer, scalds his hand; Wen, the trumpet player, busts his lip; Olivia, the singer, screams herself hoarse; and Stella, the ukulele player, gets the whole band arrested for obstructing the delivery truck that was replacing the lemonade machine with a soda machine.

When they get to the Civic Center, to top it all off, someone sits on Stella's ukulele, and when they go on, they only play for a minute before the start to walk off stage. Their fans all stand up and start singing their song, though, and what could have been a disaster turns out to be uplifting, as the band's message. Stand up for yourself and be proud of yourself gets carried by the fans themselves.

The novel closes at Wen's father's wedding, where Lemonade Mouth is playing for the reception. The band mates have coupled up (only Stella is unattached) and they don't know what the future might be, but they have seen how one song can change things.



# Chapter 1

## Chapter 1 Summary

In a short prologue, Naomi Fishmeier says that she is the authority on the rise and fall of Lemonade Mouth.

Wen narrates a scene in which he complains about Sydney, his father's girlfriend, who has made him late for school. Arriving at school, he says that is a freshman, and he envies the juniors, and emulates their mannerisms so that he will be popular one day. But when he gets to class, he finds that he has grabbed the wrong envelope, and instead of photocopies for his social studies presentation, he grabbed the nude self-portraits Sydney had done for her drawing class.

Stella says that she knows things no one knows about Lemonade Mouth. She says that when she relocated from Arizona, she cut off her hair. First she says that she did this because she was not consulted about moving. Then she says that it was because she got in trouble for a shirt that the principal said was inappropriate. Then she explains that the real reason was that she got test results that indicated that her IQ was only 84, well below normal. She says that when she looked in the mirror, afterward, she recognize a soul sister in the woman she saw there, with the chopped-off hair.

Charlie says that he is in class, listening to music in his head, imagining drumming while Mo Banerjee dances. He says that his dead twin brother Aaron, who had died at birth, tells him to kiss her, but he doesn't want to ruin his fantasy with something so unrealistic. Lost in reverie, Charlie says that he feels a spitball, and then another, hit him in the head. He considers what to do, and sees carved on his desk a yin-yang symbol. "Here I was staring at the symbol for no right answer" (p. 22). He flips a coin, and when it comes up heads, he returns fire, but misses, and hits Mo Banerjee in the nose and gets in trouble with the teacher.

Mo says that she is in trouble later on the same day as the spitball incident. She explains that she has had a crush on Scott Pickett, the drummer for Mudslide Crush and star of the soccer team. She had recently started to talk to him, and even though Naomi Fishmeier had told her that he is known to keep girls on the side, when he is going out with one girl, she finds herself kissing him in the bushes behind the gym, and then being called to Mr. Brenigan's office, where she convinces him not to call her parents, and ends up with detention for a day.

Stella says that she realized the next day that it was a mistake to cut off her hair. She says that now she didn't have anything to lose, so she decided that she would expose Mr. Brenigan as a dictator. At assembly, when clowns come in to entertain the students to celebrate the new expensive gymnasium, she stands up in front, with the t-shirt that had caused Mr. Brenigan to reprimand her, and a sign that said, "My shirt, my decision:



"Don't let the school take away your rights!" When a teacher asked her what she is doing, she says that she is trying to change the world.

Wen says that he got detention for swearing in class after the drawing incident, but he wants to try out for Marching Band. He decides to skip detention and accept the consequences, but when he gets to the tryouts, people have heard about his 'artwork' and he rushes out, humiliated.

Olivia says that Lemonade Mouth was born at detention where she meets Mo Banerjee, Wen, Stella, and Charlie and they form the band. When Mrs. Reznik steps out to take a cell phone call, the kids start to make music to replace the music of the radio, and a strange sympathy is born between them, so that they don't even care if Mrs. Reznik notices and they get in more trouble.

## Chapter 1 Analysis

These miniature stories introduce the reader to the main characters and setting—Opequonsett High School, and the budget troubles that have shifted funds from arts and music to sports. The main characters all have one thing in common: they are not popular, and not in control of their lives—but this is the first chapter, and this is the kind of story where the reader has to expect that this is going to change soon.

The change comes right before the end of the chapter/ The kids all end up in detention together, and when they make some impromptu music together, they realize that they might all have something in common and this might give them some power and control over their environment after all.



# Chapter 2

## Chapter 2 Summary

Mo says that she is freaking out about how much she's taken on: schoolwork, volunteer work at the clinic, a difficult musical piece for the talent show—and now Scott Pickett: she decides that he will have to go. She is discussing this with Naomi Fishmeier, her best friend, at her father's Indian grocery store. Mo says that her family moved to America for better opportunities, but she will still have to confront the possibility of an arranged marriage. When she gets to school the next morning, Mo finds a note from Mrs. Reznik: Come see me right away.

Charlie has gotten a note from Mrs. Reznik as well, and he sees the others when he comes in. His brother's voice comments that Mo has supposedly started seeing Scott Pickett, but he sits down and listens as Mrs. Reznik tells the five students that they have something rare and special. She says that she will work with them if they want to win the school's talent show together. Charlie says that the others all demur, but Mrs. Reznik convinces them when she recalls the synergy that they felt together. She asks them if they aren't tired of not being heard.

Wen is listening to Dizzy Gillespie, and playing along on his trumpet. He says that his father's girlfriend Sydney is distracting him by trying to get his attention and make herself appreciated. Wen says that he hopes the band comes together, since he won't be in the marching band, now. He resolves not to pay attention to Sydney, who torments him with desires he can't act on.

Olivia writes a letter to her father saying that she has been asked to join the band, but is too uncertain of her voice to join up. She admits to him that she might like Charlie.

Out at dinner with her family, Stella feels like she was exchanged for the wrong baby, as her mother and her sister Clea exchange stories and 'the step-monkeys' amuse themselves putting straws up their noses. When her mother asks her if anything is happening at school, Stella says that she is going to join a revolution.

Mo arrives at school Thursday to a note that says "Fluke or destiny? Whichever it was, we need to talk. Come to Bruno's Pizza Planet today after school. -S." (p. 73). She and Naomi Fishmeier can't figure out who wrote it, and they entertain the possibility that it was Stella. Mo shows up in spite of herself, and Stella shows up soon after.

Stella has dyed her hair green and she's sitting with Charlie and Wen. She says that she has signed their band up for the Talent show, and also for the Halloween Bash, for practice. Everyone voices objections, but Stella overwhelms them when she asks them aren't they tired of living on the sidelines. She says that she and Wen are in, and the others volunteer to come to one practice. Everyone but Charlie says they'll join, and then Charlie flips a coin: when it comes up heads, he's in too.



## Chapter 2 Analysis

The band has started to come together, but before the reader gets to see them in action, this chapter gives him or her a long list of the obstacles the five newfound friends will have to overcome, from Olivia's voice and stage fright to Mo's schedule to Charlie's indecision to the general dynamics of getting five people to agree on anything. Now the stage is set.





# Chapter 3

## Chapter 3 Summary

Wen recalls the first practice session as a disaster. As the five musicians disagree over what to play (something other than Stella's rebellious surfer rock), Wen performs the First Lemonade Mouth Miracle: he puts his horn to his lips and plays something he had been practicing, and everyone picks it up so that it works perfectly. Olivia starts to sing on top of it all:

"I don't know where I'm going

I don't know where I'd like to be

I cannot see beyond this moment

but let this moment swallow me

But I—

I'm singing a new song" (p. 88).

When they finish, they stare at each other in disbelief, grinning.

Mo says that she is breaking rules to be out with Scott Pickett at a beach party, with alcohol. The new Mudslide Crush album is playing, and Mo overhears people complaining that Mudslide Crush has lost half the Halloween Bash to this new band. When she tells Scott Pickett that she is in the band with Stella, he tries to get her to quit, or at least withdraw from the Bash. They kiss more, and he tells her he likes her, but when he asks her what she's decided about the Bash, she tells him she's decided she won't break up with him for what he said about her band mates.

Olivia writes to her father that she has joined the band, and has even written some songs with Wen. She says that she went to Wen's house, and that it was obvious that he has a thing for Sydney, since he tried to look away every time she came in the room. But Olivia has a crush in him herself, and now the band has five songs to play.

Stella says that she is notorious now that she has cut in on Mudslide Crush's night at the Bash. She shows up for band practice, and all the members have their "underworld membership badges"—cups of Mel's frozen lemonade from the machine in the corridor. Stella says that Mo is a human pressure cooker, and she had only ever seen Charlie as a disheveled kid with "an occasional psycho look in his eyes" (p. 103).

Practice is interrupted by knocking on the door, and when they got out into the hallway, there's a mobile of Mel's cups, with a note that says "Freaks Back Off the Bash" (p. 105).



Charlie says that the music Lemonade Mouth makes together takes him to another place altogether. After rehearsal, when some popular kids are harassing Olivia, and he starts to intervene, but the kids are too big for him. Stella sees this going on, though, and comes over to spray the popular boy in the face with Mel's Lemonade. When a teacher comes up, the kid complained that "Lemonade Mouth" had opened up on him. Stella gets detention, but the band gets a name.

## Chapter 3 Analysis

The band has come together, and in spite of the differences, the sound has been good, starting with the First Lemonade Mouth Miracle. The reader has to assume from this title that there will be others. There is plenty of foreshadowing such as problems with Olivia's voice, Mo's schedule and her family's opposition to dating Scott Pickett; Scott's rumored taste for secondary lovers; Stella's desire for radical politics. But these things are still gestating, and the crisis of the book is not in sight yet. The action is still rising.

Apparently, though, the band's rise is going to be complicated by real competition from Mudslide Crush, and also by the other kids, who are in thrall to the popular set.



# Chapter 4

## Chapter 4 Summary

Mo says that she has underestimated Charlie, but he calms her down. Charlie and Olivia had showed up at her father's store the previous day, but Charlie's presence in her life makes her father nervous. When Naomi Fishmeier asks Mo about Charlie, she says that she would never break up with Scott Pickett for him. Mo says that when she saw Scott last, though, he got gloomy when she showed up.

Wen says that he's relieved to sit with the others in the band at the "Freak Table", but Stella aggressively reminds everyone what happens to processed meat, and questions get personal. When the question of Olivia's parents comes up, she says that she lives with her grandmother. Her mother left, and her father is in prison for robbery and manslaughter.

Stella says that she feels a certain loyalty to Mrs. Reznik, for standing up for music against the budget cuts and sports. When Lemonade Mouth has a Saturday practice, her mother asks her to baby sit the 'step-monkeys', but she only takes them to school with her. When her mother is angry later, Stella says that it's always "easier to get forgiveness than permission." (p. 124).

Mo describes her family arriving at the temple for Durga Pooja, the Hindu Christmas. She says that she has been anxious about her relationship with Scott, and worries that her friends aren't cool enough. Mo sees her cousin Selina at the temple, and they talk about the boys they're seeing. Mo performs the Dragonetti piece she's been preparing, and the family has a good time. Mo realizes that her headache and stress have left her, and she loves her family.

Olivia writes to her father to say that her cat Nancy is dying, and she is nervous about the coming Bash, as well as the talent show. Stella has already set her sights on a radio station contest, Catch A RI-Zing Star.

Charlie says that during a break from their practicing, Olivia tells them that someone is taking the Mel's machine out of the basement. When they ask the moving men, the men say that they're just doing their job, taking the machine—but there's no replacement for it. Stella says that she is angry about not having been consulted, but Mo asks her why anyone should consult with them. Charlie says that it's sad to see the lemonade machine go—it was part of the band's identity.

Stella says that she and Charlie are inquiring about the lemonade machine, and one of the people in the office says that it's been taken away because a soda company donated money for the new scoreboard for the fields, and they had to get rid of competitors' machines. Stella is upset to hear this, but the woman in the office tells her that she can take it up with the town finance committee.



Wen says that the last practice before the Bash is a disaster—Mo didn't show up, and didn't let anyone know where she was. When Wen gets home, it's raining, and he goes out with his father to pick up some take-out Thai food. In the car, he complains to his father about Sydney loitering around the house all the time. His father pulls the car over and tells him to get over it, whatever it is, because he and Sydney are getting married. Wen gets out of the car, and walks home in the rain.

Charlie says the same thing Wen said: that practice was a disaster with Mo missing. Charlie came home to a call from Mo: she had gone to find Scott, and saw him making out with his old girlfriend, Lynn Westerberg. She was too upset for rehearsal. When Charlie consoles her, he is delighted to hear her say that she needed him. But she goes on to say that Naomi thought the two of them might be involved, but she had told Naomi that she didn't understand that they were too different to ever get together. On Friday, Charlie shows up exhausted from crying all night in bed, having listened to Aaron's voice all night, belittling him.

## Chapter 4 Analysis

It still isn't clear that the magic that has happened in a few moments with the band is going to manifest itself at the Bash, but the chapter ends on the eve of the event, and things look like they're in a shambles. Mo just caught Scott cheating on her, and Wen has gotten bad news from his father—news he can't do anything about. The lemonade machine is gone, as well, and the plot seems to be thickening.



# Chapter 5

## Chapter 5 Summary

Lyle Dworkin gets included for his narrative of the Halloween Bash. Lyle says that the night started off badly, as Mudslide Crush took so long setting up that the Lemonade Mouth couldn't do a sound check.

Dawn Yunker complains that guys are pigs, for having seen Scott Pickett with his ex-girlfriend all over him, as if to insult and upset Mo Banerjee.

Leslie Dern describes Olivia running into the bathroom, sick with stage-fright, trying to keep from throwing up.

Mr. Brenigan says that Lemonade Mouth started late, and as much as he started off rooting for her, now he's thinking that he made a mistake letting Lemonade Mouth play.

Ray Beech says that he saw Scott Pickett come in with his ex-girlfriend all over him, and she gave him one last tongue kiss before the show - just to upset Mo Banerjee.

Cynthia Stenman says that she overhears Olivia being sick in the bathroom. Stella and Charlie and Wen come in to comfort her, and talk her into performing.

Seth Levine, a senior, says that he was looking forward to a good party, but he saw Lemonade Mouth looking very glum while the dance was going on. He describes the picture that Azra Quimby took of them, "looking intense, their faces drawn and pale." (p. 158). In the gym, Mudslide Crush took a break, and Dean Eagler said that they would be right back "unless the other band finally got their act together. Which is kind of unlikely, don't you think?" (p. 158).

Azra Quimby says that the room went silent when Lemonade Mouth took the stage.

Mrs. Reznik says that none of the members of Lemonade Mouth wore a costume to the Halloween Bash. When Olivia should have come in, she missed her cue, and Mrs. Reznik says that she started to have doubts. But then Olivia pulled herself together, and started to sing, and changed the atmosphere completely.

Jane Seiseki says that the song Lemonade Mouth started to sing really moved her, articulating her feelings about school and growing up.

Andrea Beckham says that she didn't dance to Mudslide Crush, but when Lemonade Mouth played, she was gripped by the music. She says that 'Skinny Nancy' was the song she did her first slow dance to.

Scott Pickett says that Lemonade Mouth was really good, even though he hates to admit it. He has praise for each of the members of Lemonade Mouth, and starts to have



doubts about winning the Holiday Talent Contest. Scott says that Ray had been telling him that he could do better than Mo, but seeing her on stage, he wants her back.

Patty Norris is definitely not impressed by Lemonade Mouth, and has nothing but criticism of their odd instruments—ukulele and accordion.

Delila Czerwinski says that the Halloween Bash was really memorable.

Manny Valdez says that "the kids stood all around the gym making up freaky dances to go with the freaky music." (p. 168). But he says that the music touched him in ways that no one anticipated.

Naomi Fishmeier says that when Lemonade Mouth played their final song, it was written by Stella. Stella opens a cooler, and starts to hand out cups of Mel's lemonade. A movie screen comes down from the ceiling, and Stella starts to talk about the Mel's machine being taken away, and the school contracting with the soda company. She talks about Mrs. Reznik being banished to the basement, and shows a photo of her with Elton John and Yo Yo Ma. She closes with a photo of the executive who struck the deal that took the Mel's machine away. She ends her speech with a democratic appeal.

The music starts again, and Olivia started to sing: "I want lemonade In my cup" (p. 174) and Stella rips off her shirt to reveal the t-shirt that had gotten her in trouble. That's when Mr. Brenigan pulls the plug on them.

## Chapter 5 Analysis

Finally, the first gig. And it goes over really well, so that everyone, even Scott Pickett is impressed. All the problems that have plagued the members of Lemonade Mouth are talked about in general terms as problems affecting the school, and Stella gives a long tirade about the need for more understanding, and more of a student say in school decisions. The crowd loves the performance, and kids are doing freaky dances to the freaky music. This chapter is a triumph, that bears out all Mrs. Reznik's optimism (and rewards her with a reference to her dignity). Now the larger challenge of the Talent Show remains.



# Chapter 6

## Chapter 6 Summary

Olivia writes to Ted that Nancy has died. She says that she wants to call Wen, but can't let herself. He calls nonetheless, and shows up with Stella and Charlie when he hears that she's upset. She says that she and Brenda and Wen buried Nancy and had a beautiful ceremony. She adds that she survived the dance, and now she's nervous about what comes next.

Wen describes sitting on the flat roof outside of Olivia's window, the five of them, trying to identify shapes in clouds. He describes having come over to meet Brenda, Olivia's grandmother, and the burial. The band starts to analyze their performance, and expects to get detention at least. Charlie tells the others that they had decided to make a statement, and they shouldn't feel regret now. Wen says that Stella calls herself stupid for not foreseeing that they would get shut down—but the others see genius in all the arrangements she's made to get them this far. Wen says that that Mo confesses next, that she's a fraud, and Charlie confesses that he thinks that it's a mistake he's alive, since his twin brother died. Wen doesn't confess anything, he only says that he wishes he had a time machine, to go back to the time before everything got complicated. Wen says that Olivia didn't have anything to confess. When Wen is leaving, Olivia tells him that the thing about clouds is they keep you from seeing what's around you—and when he doesn't understand her, she says that they can also be anything you want them to be. Wen says that he realizes two things about Olivia: that she wasn't going to say much, and that her silence was eloquent.

Charlie says that he arrives at school Monday morning to a note from Mr. Brenigan: come see me immediately. When he goes to the office, he finds the others, and Mr. Brenigan calls them into his office to reprimand them for making a political tirade at the dance. He gives them detention for the week, and tells them that they have been pulled from the Talent Show.

Charlie says that they are all distraught to be kicked out of the talent show, but during the day, they get great feedback from the other students. Naomi Fishmeier's article calls Lemonade Mouth "unexpectedly powerful" (p. 192). Charlie says that he is approached by a beautiful girl named Veronica who tells him how much she admires his music. With Aaron's voice, he abuses himself for his timidity, but he says that he is not used to beautiful women giving him compliments. Stranger still, he says that when he gets to class, the AV kids give him a copy of the CD of the show—they recorded it, and now they are selling copies for \$10. Even better, Charlie says that when he sees Ray Beech menacing a drama club student, a crowd of people comes out and menaces Ray instead.

When Mo shows up for her music lesson with Mrs. Reznik, Reznik says that she shouldn't be discouraged, but just keep playing, and don't let the school stand in your



way. Mo says that her mood turns around when she realizes that Lemonade Mouth has an underground following in the school, and people see her as a hero. Signs start to appear, urging the school to let Lemonade Mouth play the Talent Show. Mr. Brenigan takes the signs down and calls the band to the office, but they aren't responsible for putting the signs up, so there's nothing he can do. Even students who never talk to Mo are giving her the thumbs up for what she's done. Mo says that she is starting to feel more focused now that she isn't eating with Scott Pickett every day, and she looks forward to the 'Freaks'.

Mo says that one afternoon the administrators take down a sign painted on a bedsheet, with a line from one of Olivia's songs: "My spirit is a lion that will not be caged." (p. 201). She runs into Charlie, and is annoyed at the amount of attention he's been getting. But he tells her that Lemonade Mouth might have another gig at Bruno's Pizza. Mo doesn't want to do it, and when she blasts Charlie for not talking to her any more, she realizes that she's crazy about him. Mo realizes that Andrea Beckham, a student in a wheelchair, is beautiful when she approaches, happy with the rebelliousness that Lemonade Mouth has injected into the school. When they get to the gym, Mo and Charlie see signs everywhere, and when Charlie asks Mo if she doesn't want to play another show, Mo says that she isn't sure what she wants anymore.

Stella says, in flowery prose, that these are turbulent times for our heroes. It's the day after the Talent Show, and Lemonade Mouth didn't even play. She is upset about Olivia, but when she gets home, her mother wants to go out for coffee and talk with her. Over coffee, Stella tells her mother that quiet students are standing up to the administration and teachers over the lemonade machine decision. Stella's mother tells her that one of her investors is considering backing out. They might have to move again if the project is defunded. Stella says that she still carries the envelope with her IQ test scores around, as evidence of her stupidity, and as a dare to do what she wants. Her mother's cell phone rings before Stella can ask whether IQ tests can be wrong.

When Stella gets to school, a crowd has gathered in front of graffiti that portrays the five members of Lemonade Mouth with lemons in their mouths like gags, and a message that says "Don't stop the revolution" (p. 214). Following this, Olivia agreed to sing if the band got a gig at Bruno's and Lemonade Mouth is back.

## Chapter 6 Analysis

Now that the first gig is over, the band faces a fresh round of complications—starting with Mr. Brenigan's opposition, and building on Olivia's anxiety and Mo's impatience with her loaded schedule. But the support the band gets from the students is overwhelming and each of the band members find that they have the support to play another gig after all. The school environment starts to seem overly-strict in this chapter, as Lemonade Mouth starts to be persecuted, and it seems like Mr. Brenigan might be the only agent of persecution, if the band has so much support.





# Chapter 7

## Chapter 7 Summary

Olivia writes to her father that the gig at Bruno's was packed, and the band has been asked back. She says that the band's CD has been banned by Mr. Brenigan, but she thinks it might have more to do with the soda machine controversy. Olivia says that her face is on t-shirts that are being worn around the school, but she expects that those will be banned too. She says that Stella has started a call-in campaign to get into the Catch A RI-Zing Star competition, and Olivia says that she is nervous about performing in front of 14,000 people on a televised performance. She tells her father that she hasn't told Wen about her feelings for him—he's still hung up on Sydney. She writes that she had to tear open the envelope to add a note that her song 'Skinny Nancy' just played on the radio.

Wen says that on hearing Skinny Nancy on the radio, he runs downstairs, and sees his father embracing Sydney. They turn on the radio, and everyone starts hugging—Sydney hugs him and gives him a peck on the cheek. Wen says that the experience wasn't what he expected it to be—he thought there would be a secret feeling in it—but there is nothing, and it keeps him from falling asleep for a long time.

Mo says that Mrs. Reznik has been out sick for almost two weeks with a cold, so she and the others go to visit her with some chicken soup. Mrs. Reznik is not wearing her wig when she answers the door, but she invites Lemonade Mouth into the house, and puts herself together. Talk is uncomfortable at first, but soon Mo and the others relax. Mo says that she sees a picture of Mrs. Reznik sitting with Prince Albert of Monaco, and she wonders what it's like to sit with royalty, but by the time the students leave, she says that having sat with Mrs. Reznik, she now knows.

Charlie says that Bruno's allowed Lemonade Mouth to play there after their songs started to be played on WRIZ, but Mudslide Crush started to come to school in t-shirts that said things like "Lemonade Mouth killed my puppy" (p. 228). After their fourth show at Bruno's, Charlie says that he even got a compliment from Scott Pickett.

Wen says that Olivia got Lemonade Mouth to come with her to visit her father in prison. They take buses to the penitentiary, and on the way, Olivia tells them the story about how her father ended up in jail—the man who died had been shot with his own gun—and it was a heart attack, not the gunshot, that actually killed him. The band members all let themselves be searched as they go in. Olivia's father knows all about them, and Wen says that sitting with her and her father, he knew that things were going to be alright in the end.

The gig at Bruno's doesn't go well. Ray Beech and Dean Eagler from Mudslide Crush show up, and then they come up on stage and insult the band and then a fight breaks out, which is completely out of Charlie's control.



Mo has a fight with her father after she arrives home after the brawl at the gig: her father doesn't want her to see Charlie any more. When Mo arrives at the clinic to volunteer the next day, Charlie is there, and he tells her that he's always liked her. She tells him that he doesn't fit with her big plan. When she goes to sign in to volunteer, the nurse tells her to get in line herself, for the clinic: she looks "like death warmed over." (p. 249).

Stella says that her mother invites her to come ice fishing, but Stella says that she is looking forward to Catch A RI-Zing Star tonight. She sees in the newspaper that the school is switching out the lemonade machines over the weekend, and when she gets angry about it, her mother tells her to take it easy, and not to fight battles she can't win. Her mother says that she's considering handing in her resignation on her project, since it isn't going well. Stella says that she gets even madder, and storms out of the house in the snow to go to the middle school, to see what she can do about the lemonade machines.

## Chapter 7 Analysis

This chapter provides contradictory elements: there is the triumph of the band's song playing on the radio and Wen's sense of harmony about things, visiting Olivia's father and lastly the intimacy developing between Charlie and Mo—but there is also Mo's illness, Ray Beech's insults, and the band being banned from Bruno's, and lastly there's the fight Stella has with her mother. When she rushes out of the house, it seems like bad things might come of this, and she could get in trouble in a way that might jeopardize the band's performance at Catch A RI-Zing Star. Not to mention that Stella says that it's snowing hard when she leaves the house. Even the weather seems to be against the band performing.



# Chapter 8

## Chapter 8 Summary

Charlie says that after being humiliated by Mo, he comes home and puts the teakettle on, to make the last bag of the chai tea he'd bought at Mo's father's store. He goes to his drums, and pounds out elaborate rhythms that make his humiliation a little easier to bear. When he remembers the kettle, he runs downstairs, and grabs it bare-handed, then drops the kettle and spills water on himself, giving himself second degree burns on his hand.

Olivia says that Wen calls to say that Mo and Charlie have both said that they can't play at Catch A RI-Zing Star. Wen can't talk from home, so they agree to meet at Paperback Joe's. When they get there, Wen is upset because his father has asked him to be his best man in the wedding, but Wen is angry at Sydney for leeching on the family, and he refuses to do it. Olivia gets mad at him for just giving up on the performance, and she yells at him outside, telling him that he's lucky to have a caring family, when her father's in prison. She tells him that Sydney is too old for him, and he should get over her, and by the time she's done yelling, she's strained her voice, so she can't perform either.

Mo says that she can accept getting bad test scores because she's sick, but she's tortured over having yelled at Charlie. When her father comes in to her bedroom, she tells him that she wants to lighten her load, and he agrees that this is a good idea. He apologizes for what he had said about Charlie the night before. Stella calls, and Mo starts to get up to go, but her father thinks she is going to see Charlie. She says "what if I am? Would that really be the end of the world?" (p. 272). They try to see eye to eye, but end up standing facing each other without saying anything.

Wen says that when he gets home from seeing Olivia, he is furious about his father's request. He goes into the bathroom, and Sydney is just getting out of the shower, completely naked, and when he runs away from her, he bashes his lip on the side of a table that had been left in the hall.

Stella says that when she arrives at the middle school, the lemonade machine is already in the truck. The other members of the band all join her, and they lay down in front of the truck, to prevent the moving men driving away with the lemonade machine. When the moving men call the cops, Lemonade Mouth all end up getting arrested. Stella says that she is surprised to find that her mother isn't angry, she's actually supportive.

All the members of Lemonade Mouth agree to play the Catch A RI-Zing Star gig, even though they're in rough shape, but when they get there—with the Civic Center almost full—a roadie sits on Stella's ukulele, snapping it in half. There isn't any time to do anything, because the band is ushered onto the stage.



## Chapter 8 Analysis

This chapter follows the band through their challenges to the Civic Center, where it seems that they are cursed after all, when Stella's ukulele is broken. The band certainly gets points for perseverance—between the busted lip, hoarse throat, burned hand and bad flu, it doesn't seem like they should be playing at all, never mind laying themselves in the snow in front of the moving truck and getting arrested. This chapter is highly volatile and the novel is set for its climax, and wrap-up.



# Chapter 9-10

## Chapter 9-10 Summary

Chapter 9: Mrs. Reznik says that the scene at the Civic Center is boisterous and supportive, but the Lemonade Mouth fans are the most enthusiastic. She says that she is horrified when she saw Lemonade Mouth step onto the stage, all banged up.

Delila Czerwinski says that everything goes wrong with Lemonade Mouth's performance, and they stop playing a minute into the song.

Richie Benedetti says that when the members of Lemonade Mouth start to retreat from the stage, Terry Cabeleira stands up and starts to sing one of Lemonade Mouth's songs—then Richie and others stand up and start to sing as well

Ray Beech says that he gets mad when everyone starts to stand up and sing at the Civic Center, and he tried to tell a kid in front of him to sit down, but the kid's friend is huge and threatening, and Ray backs down.

Jane Seiseki says that even Mrs. Reznik is standing on her seat and singing. She says that this event is later called the "Second Lemonade Mouth Miracle."

Mr. Brenigan says that he is somewhat glad to see Lemonade Mouth fail, after all the trouble they've given him about the soda company deal. He says that he feels dread when the song is finished, and the crowd bursts into a prolonged cheer.

Chapter 10: Mo says that a reporter from the Providence Journal runs a huge story about the band getting arrested and then playing the Catch A RI-Zing Star. When Scott Pickett approaches her and apologizes, Mo says that she isn't that into him. When she gets home, she asks her father whether he really trusts her, and she says that she had a foggy idea of what she needs for herself.

Charlie has a dialogue with his brother Aaron about whether to walk home or take the bus, and he flips a coin, but when he should run to catch the bus, he decides he's done listening to his brother's cynical voice. He starts to talk, and when the warm spring day turns to rain, he see Mo walking home, and she offers to shelter him under her umbrella. She takes his hand, and she apologizes for everything she's told him. She tells him she likes him, and wants to be with him. She kisses him unexpectedly, and he is delighted in spite of all the suffering he's gone through over her.

Wen says that seeing Sydney naked had made him feel more like he was walking in on a relative—instead of a girl he was attracted to. He says that this lets him feel freer of his resentment about her marrying his father. Wen is reading *Twelfth Night* in Olivia's copy of Shakespeare's complete works, and when Olivia shows up, he realizes that he's had feelings for her all this time. Wen says that he has invited Olivia and the others and Mrs. Reznik to the house for dinner, and everyone gobbles up the meal Sydney and



Wen's father have made. Stella interrupts the dinner to tell everyone that she'd just found out that she wasn't stupid, she just had dyslexia and Attention Deficit Disorder—but instead of being bad news, this lets Stella feel like she can be as smart as she wants to be.

Olivia says that Lemonade Mouth continues to be popular, and the Providence Phoenix describes them as being like "Everyman". She says that with all the media attention, Mr. Brenigan has backed down on the soda company deal. She says that the day when the lemonade machines returned is a big celebration.

Olivia says that she can't find an ending point to her story, but she says that she might end with Mrs. Reznik, who moved back upstairs out of the basement, or with Ray Beech, who tried to form a band himself, and failed badly. In the end, she decides to wrap up with the story of her and her grandmother selling painted clamshell ashtrays. After the church sale, she gets home to find Wen sitting there with a kitten for her. She says that she's falling in love with Wen, and even though she doesn't know what's in store, her life is connected with the other members of the band.

Stella says that she is arriving to play with Lemonade Mouth at Wen's father and Sydney's wedding. She is dressed up in a dress (and a dog collar so no one will think she sold out) and she says that she has never seen Mo so relaxed, now that she is with Charlie, and Wen and Olivia keep looking at each other like they share a secret. Everyone is having fun, and some Australians ask the band for their autograph. In closing, Stella says that she is reminded how a song can change the world.

## Chapter 9-10 Analysis

Chapter 9: The Second Lemonade Mouth Miracle is certainly miraculous, as the magic that Lemonade Mouth has bottled spreads through the other students to fill the whole Civic Center. Ray Beech and Mr. Brenigan might be unhappy about it, but the power of the message Lemonade Mouth stands for is overwhelming, and it carried them in spite of the damage to their bodies and instruments. They themselves have become unnecessary, and their song has been picked up by the people around them. They mean something in the community since they don't have to fight for themselves any more, but everyone else is carrying their message for them.

Chapter 10: As the book wraps up, the band has had a triumph even in spite of their disaster. The fans loved them enough to sing their song themselves, and their political stunt before the show gets them some respect. Wen and Stella both have realizations that free them from their feelings and frustrations, and now Mo and Charlie are finally free to hook up. Free from his feelings about Sydney, Wen can finally see that Olivia likes him, and they are a couple as well. Free from the stigma of an 84 IQ, Stella enjoys a coming out party, of sorts, at Wen's father's wedding. The future is uncertain for all of them, but Stella says that she knows that the power of one song can change the world.



# Characters

## Wen

Wen is a freshman at Opequonsett High School, and he notices the juniors and seniors and emulates their behavior so that he will be popular one day. This fails when he brings his father's girlfriend's nude self-portraits to school one day and ends up in detention. He plays trumpet though and is responsible for holding the group together.

## Stella

Stella relocated to Rhode Island from Arizona and soon after, cut off all her long hair. She was not fitting in at school and got test results that indicated her IQ was only 84. She is the rebel in the group until she finds out that she isn't stupid, she just has dyslexia and ADHD.

## Sydney

Sydney is Wen's father's girlfriend, his fiancée, and then his wife. She is young and Wen resents her butting in on their family, but his father loves her. Wen seems to have a thing for her himself when he sees her naked by accident.

## Charlie

Charlie is a spacey kid who always hears his dead twin brother's voice in his head. Aaron urges him to do things he wouldn't do himself, and Charlie suffers a little survivor guilt for being the one who survived. He plays a weird assortment of drums, but has a powerful effect.

## Olivia

Olivia is being raised by her grandmother Wendy, and they take care of a bunch of cats. She is the singer for Lemonade Mouth, even though she is desperately afraid of performing.

## Mrs. Reznik

Mrs. Reznick is the music teacher at Opequonsett High School, and she pulls Lemonade Mouth together as a band when she hears the students jamming together. She ends up as their inspiration, when they realize what an illustrious past she's had.



## **Ray Beech**

Ray Beech is one of the popular kids who plays in Mudslide Crush. He persecutes the nerds and geeks in the high school, and he tries to make Lemonade Mouth look foolish.

## **Scott Pickett**

Scott Pickett is a junior and soccer star, and also the drummer for Mudslide Crush. He dated Mo Banerjee for a short time before he dumps her for his old girlfriend.

## **Mo Banerjee**

Mo Banerjee is an Indian girl who is super motivated and uptight about doing everything right so she gets into med school. She dates Scott Pickett for a short time, but ends up realizing that she has a thing for Charlie.





## Objects/Places

### Providence, RI

This is where Lemonade Mouth is set. It is a change for Stella who comes from Arizona, and it is known as an East Coast location, defined by its fixed cliques and restrictive society with unwritten rules.

### The gymnasium

The new gym at Opequonsett High School contributes to the formation of Lemonade Mouth. The project was over-budget, so the school cut back on programs like music.

### Mel's Lemonade

This frozen sluchy drink is native to Rhode Island, and it's a nice break from soda. IT comes from a dispenser in the basement, so a taste for the drink is supposed to be taken as a sign that a person spends time in the less-popular pursuits housed in the basement of the high school.

### Ukulele

This is Stella's instrument, and it is broken at the night of Catch A RI-Zing Star by a stage hand.

### Timbales

These are a kind of drums Charlie plays.

### Bruno's Pizza Planet

This is where Lemonade Mouth meets to decide to become a band, and it is also where they play a nambre of gigs.

### Paperback Joe's

This is the bookstore where Wen and Olivia meet on the day before the Catch A RI-Zing Star performance.

## **The basement**

This is where the 'loser' clubs meet, as opposed to the gymnasium, which is where the popular kids are.

# Themes

## Discovering an alternative self

Stella says that she didn't recognize herself when she cut off her hair at first and then she did. She saw a soul sister in her new face. Similarly, Mo Banerjee says that she didn't recognize the person with leaves in her hair, making out with a soccer start in the bushes. It didn't fit her plan for herself. In both cases, the girls found other aspects of their personalities, and started to incorporate them into their lives. As much as Mo, in particular, had a plan and even Stella has expectations, based on her family, and her IQ scores. These alternate selves take chances risk embarrassment and come out on the other side having done something impressive. Mo, for instance, learns to relax, and enjoy herself, instead of always stressing out about medical school and her parents' disapproval.

Charlie, too, has this happen as he hears his brother's voice all the time as an alter ego. In the course of the novel, he makes his peace with his brother's voice, and starts to do the things he wants, without his brother's cynical perspective always chiming in. Instead of banishing these other selves, Lemonade Mouth seems to tell the story of characters coming to terms with their own complexities, and appropriating them.

## Overcoming obstacles

This novel is a long list of obstacles the band overcomes, from the unlikely combination of personalities to the physical and emotional complications that almost prevent the band from playing, at a number of turns. The novel seems to take the reader for a roller coaster ride, and as real as the obstacles are, and as rooted as they are in the characters' very real concerns, the story itself seems to overcome them. There is a certain doggedness that starts with Stella having nothing to lose in a new school where no one talks to her, but there is also a certain luck to it, as Charlie symbolizes with his coin flipping. Sometimes things work out, but the band does also work hard to make sure that they stand a good chance of working out. The rest is just synergy, but in the end, the obstacles are overcome.

## Miracles happening (for good and bad)

Things seem to happen out of the blue throughout Lemonade Mouth. From the spontaneous music the five students make, without even knowing each other, to some of the disasters that make things hard for them. These events are referred to jocularly as the Lemonade Mouth Miracles, or alternatively the Curse of Ray Beech, but things happen outside of the students' control quite frequently. The students overcome these things by sheer effort, and by confronting their fears—so that they have the ability to make their music and impress people no matter what happens. When bad things happen, they show up to play anyway, and by the time they show up for the disastrous

performance at Catch A RI-Zing Star, they are so well liked that people can tolerate the random disasters.

## **There's more to people than appearances**

Stella preaches a few sermons on this point, and the culture of the school does seem to be divided between the couple of popular kids and the rest, who are prey to all kinds of insecurities and various forms of powerlessness. When Stella shows up and is persecuted for breaking the unwritten rules about dress, she is angry. Since she is new, she doesn't have anything to lose. Chopping her hair off doesn't make her any more of a stranger to the other students, since none of them talk to her anyway, and she brings a political sensibility to the novel. When Lemonade Mouth has its first gig, she and the AV kids work out a political statement that is partly about the school getting rid of the Lemonade machine, but partly about the music room being crammed down in the basement, and the school being a place where a lot of students are treated badly. The attention she pays to the inequality in the school makes the formerly powerless kids stand up and now people like Ray Beech can't bully them as easily.

# Style

## Point of View

The novel is told from a number of points of view, from the five members of Lemonade Mouth, who each tell their story in their own way to the other students in Opequonsett High School, and the music teacher, Mrs. Reznik, and Mr. Brenigan, the principal. Many of the accounts were made after the fact, like Charlie's, which is for extra credit in a class—but Olivia's account comes from her letters to her father in prison, and Stella's sounds like it comes more from her journals than being written for an audience.

## Setting

Lemonade Mouth is set at Opequonsett High School, a fictional high school in Rhode Island. There is a tension between the gymnasium culture, and the sports kids like Scott Pickett and Ray Beech, and the 'underground' kids who belong to the clubs that have been moved into the basement. Lemonade Mouth comes together among this latter group, and the setting reflects their underground/underdog status. The other setting is the emotional setting that is defined by insecurity on one hand and confidence on the other—the book moves from the former to the latter as the students in Lemonade Mouth learn to overcome almost every conceivable obstacle.

## Language and Meaning

The language varies from Charlie's non-standard, very casual language, which is written for a report for a class, and Stella's very sophisticated vocabulary, which adds humor, spice and complexity to the narrative. Stella's, Wen's and Mo's sections make the novel seem more grown up than you would expect from fourteen-year-olds. Charlie's sounds about right and Olivia's sections make it sound genuine and heartfelt.

## Structure

The book follows chronological order but it does leap around from one narrator to the next. The book itself is supposedly the creation of Naomi Fishmeier, the Scene Queen of the Freshman class, who puts it together out of all the different accounts. With many voices, and a number of story lines that come and go, the book is a little like a soap opera with a theme of following the issues surrounding the band and its challenges and triumphs. The book purports to be the definitive story of the band, but it seems to spend a lot of time on the back stories and personal lives of the members.



## Quotes

"Misbehavior is a key attribute of true genius." (p. 3).

"With one unlucky spin of the Wheel of Fortune I've plummeted from perfect happiness to absolute despair." (p. 28).

"What's the biggest problem with our school? It's that most kids don't step up. Why is it okay that only a chosen few are seen as important and everybody else is a nobody?" (p. 79).

"I hear people say  
These are the best days of our lives  
But they don't know, they don't know  
I like to think  
That when we're older we'll laugh so hard  
that today's tears will fade like old photographs" (p. 160).

"Their music gripped me in a way I can't even describe. I was mesmerized." (p. 163).

"Just because you're not part of a particular trendy crowd, does that really make you a geek? A loser? Does it make you a freak? Because if it does, then there certainly are a lot of freaks around here!" (p. 173).

"With its unlikely hodgepodge of instruments including a ukulele, an accordion and what can only be described as a bewildering wall of assorted percussion instruments from another galaxy, Lemonade Mouth is surely the weirdest, freshest new direction in music since Mozart's mother threw out his banjo." (p. 192).

"We're not just a band to the kids around here. It's weird, but somehow they've made us...I don't know...more. It's almost like they've put us at the center of a movement." (p. 206).

"It certainly was a turbulent time for our embattled ukulele toting maverick and her ragtag gang of malcontents. Suddenly they found themselves at the center of controversy, both vilified and idolized, depending on who you asked." (p. 206).

"I'm a freak and I'm proud! Lemonade Mouth—don't stop the revolution!" (p. 214).

"Even though I'm not brilliant like you, at least I'm trying to do something and not giving up! Unlike some people I know who throw in the towel just because of a setback! I'd rather be a dummy with a heart than a genius without a backbone." (p. 255).

"I may be back among the walls/but I'm not alone." (p. 296).

Headline: "Students Hope Determination Can Turn Lemons Into Lemonade" (p. 303).

"I'm not a moron after all, I'm just easily distracted!" (p. 323).

"In a way, Lemonade Mouth is like Everyman. We can all relate to the difficulty of finding ourselves in over our heads, trying to maintain our dignity and sense of humor while undertaking tasks that sometimes seem out of our grasp." (p. 324).

"When Lemonade Mouth speaks, the world listens." (p. 326).

There's no telling what's ahead for any of us, but it feels right to be reminded that our lives are all connected, and that whether we realize it or not, we are each playing an important part in some larger plan. Nothing happens without a reason." (p. 331).



## Topics for Discussion

Lemonade Mouth uses a number of quotes from a number of sources. Which one best emblemizes the book? Which others are good candidates? Explain why the one you chose is closest to the heart of the book.

Evaluate the claim made in the Providence Phoenix that Lemonade Mouth is like Everyman. Using examples from the text, argue for or against this proposition. How does the book provide support for your argument?

Whose story is 'Lemonade Mouth?' What are two or three ways you could answer that question, and what evidence would you use that argues for one definite answer?

What lessons does Lemonade Mouth teach? What lessons do the characters themselves learn, and what lessons does the book itself teach? How do these different lessons relate to each other? Are they similar?

How does the book portray the failure at the Catch A RI-Zing Star performance as a triumph? How do the students in Lemonade Mouth understand their train wreck performance as a success? What makes this uplifting instead of horrifying?

Write a review of Lemonade Mouth. What is the best part of the book? What parts of the book could have been improved? Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?