

Will Grayson, Will Grayson Study Guide

Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green (author)

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Plot Summary

Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan is a book written for young adults. The premise and execution of the novel is quite unusual as every other chapter tells the story of Will Grayson. There are two Will Graysons.

The first chapter is written by John Green and is from the point of view of Will Grayson, a teenage high school student from Naperville, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Green's character, Will Grayson, has the same name as the second character will grayson, which is written by David Levithan. In order to keep the characters separate, the odd numbered chapters are written by Green in the persona of Will Grayson; the even numbered chapters are written by Levithan in the persona of will grayson. Green's character, Will Grayson, is always noted through using capital letters while Levithan's will grayson is written in lower case, a la ee cummings. The writing used throughout will grayson's story is all in lower case, including the names of the other characters. Will Grayson often refers to will grayson as o.w.g. (the other will grayson) to further distinguish the characters.

The first (original) Will Grayson is a student at Evanston High School, located on the outskirts of Chicago. Will loves Chicago, although his hometown, Naperville, leaves something to be desired. Will, however, loves Chicago proper. There is something about the smell that Will likes plus there always seems to be something to do in the city which is certainly not true in Naperville. The other will grayson (often referred to as o.w.g.) also lives in the suburbs of Chicago, in a neighborhood eerily similar to Will Grayson's neighborhood.

The stories of the boys are somewhat routine until they happen to meet. In the main turning point in the story, Will and will both go to the same porn store in Chicago to meet Isaac, a would-be love interest that does not exist.

The main differences between the two Will Graysons are that the original Will Grayson is a somewhat confused teen that decides the only way to get through life is to be as removed as possible so that one won't get hurt. In fact, Will has two rules for living - 1. Don't care too much; and 2. Shut up. Will believes that these rules serve him well and keep him out of the public eye. Fortunately, or unfortunately, Will's best friend Tiny Cooper never obeys the rules.

Tiny Cooper is Will's best friend. Will describes Tiny this way: "Tiny Cooper is not the world's gayest person, and is not the world's largest person, but I believe he may be the world's largest person who is really, really gay, and also the world's gayest person who is really, really large" (chap. 1, p. 3).

The boys suffer through typical teen angst. Tiny is constantly in love and completely self-involved. Will is struggling with his sexuality, which finally becomes clear when he falls for Jane, a quirky girl who challenges Will.



The other will grayson is angry about everything, at all times. Will is not entirely sure why he is angry. Things change when will grayson meets Will Grayson in Chicago. When will grayson meets Tiny Cooper, his whole life changes. will grayson falls in love.

Both Will Graysons struggle with their relationships as well as self-acceptance. The culmination of the story settles these issues as both Will Graysons discover the truth about themselves at the premiere of Tiny's musical "Hold me Closer". It is at that point that the Will Graysons realize that their lives will never be the same.



chapters 1-4

chapters 1-4 Summary

Chapter one opens with Will Grayson discussing his on again off again relationship with Tiny Cooper. Will and Tiny go to Evanston High School which is located in the suburbs of Chicago. Will and Tiny have been best friends since the fifth grade except for the previous semester when Tiny was engrossed in embracing and exploring his gayness and Will was busy with a new Group of Friends. Unfortunately for Will, that new Group of Friends stopped speaking to him after he committed two slight transgressions: 1. Will wrote a letter to the school newspaper defending Tiny's right to be both large and gay. 2. One of the Group of Friends confronted Will about the letter. Will replied with an unsavory epithet and stormed off. Technically, it was Will that left the Group of Friends, not the other way around. "Tiny Cooper is not the world's gayest person, and is not the world's largest person, but I believe he may be the world's largest person who is really, really gay, and also the world's gayest person who is really, really large" (chap. 1, p. 3).

The story picks up one afternoon in precalc when Tiny waltzes into the room, wearing his football jersey. Tiny manages to squeeze into the seat next to Will and loudly announces that he is in love. Unbeknownst to Tiny, precalc class has already started and he is the center of attention. Being the center of attention is normal for Tiny and precisely one of the reasons Will would not choose Tiny as his one and only friend. The class assumes that Tiny's statement of love is directed at Will. Later, Will tells Tiny not to make such displays as he has enough trouble with girls without them thinking he's gay.

Will has two rules for living - 1. Don't care too much; and 2. Shut up. Will believes that these rules serve him well and keep him out of the public eye. Tiny, however, never obeys the rules.

Tiny's other friends include gay Gary of the Gay-Straight Alliance and may-or-may-not-be-gay Jane. Will would consider Gary to be a friend as he seems like a good guy. Will hardly knows Jane.

Will walks down the hall amidst cat calls and insults, which he tries desperately to ignore.

After school, Will goes home to an empty house. Will's parents are working late at the hospital again. Will thinks about Tiny's house. Tiny's parents are richer than God and live in the biggest mansion in town. The Coopers are so rich that Tiny actually lives alone in the guest cottage on the property.

Tiny calls Will to say that Neutral Milk Hotel is playing at the Hideout, a local club. Tiny and Will are excited beyond belief and make plans to go to the venue immediately. There is a long line at the venue and the wait is excruciating. It is learned that the show is limited to people twenty-one and older, which means none of the friends can get in.



Some have fake IDs. Will does not have a fake ID and is prepared to go home and sulk. Tiny comes up with a plan and the group gets inside. It does not take long to learn that NMH is not playing, that it was a hoax by another band. The friends go home filled with disappointment and anger.

Tiny drank a lot at the club, so Will speeds through the side streets trying to get Tiny home before he can pass out in the car. There is no way Tiny can be moved if he passes out. Jane and Will manage to get Tiny into his house, where he passes out on the floor.

Chapter two begins with Will getting ready for school. Will's mother attempts to talk to Will in a cheery motherly fashion, but Will wants no part of the conversation. Will only wants to be left alone. Will's responses to his mother's chatter tend to be glib or outright rude when he isn't ignoring her.

Will meets up with Maura, Derek and Simon, friends that seem to be together because they have nothing better to do.

After school, Will goes home while other kids go off to their after school extracurricular activities. Will checks his instant messenger application on his computer to see if Isaac is on line. He is not. Will kills time with various activities including making and eating dinner, taking a shower and masturbating. Isaac finally comes online and Will is excited to talk to him.

Will discusses how he and Isaac met. Both were in a chat room that had gone silent. Eventually they began to talk to each other and became friends. Their friendship had blossomed into something else which has not yet been defined. It is clear though that there are feelings between the boys.

Later that night, Will receives this email:

"i feel like my life is so scattered right now. like it's all these small pieces of paper and someone's turned on the fan. but talking to you makes me feel like the fan's been turned off for a little bit. like things could actually make sense you completely unscatter me, and i appreciate that so much.

"GOD I AM SO IN LOVE."

(Chap. 2, p. 37)

Chapter three details the more mundane aspects of Will's life, including showering, school, homework, dinner, TV, Facebook, and listening to music. Tiny calls Will and asks him to attend a meeting of the Gay-Straight Alliance. Will says no but by the end of the conversation ends up agreeing to the after school meeting. The GSA is comprised of eight kids, including Will, and Mr. Fortenson, the English teacher. Will soon learns that Tiny had made a plan to hook him up with Jane. Will is furious with Tiny. Tiny spends the meeting time flirting with a boy named Nick.



Tiny tells Will that there is another concert. Will knows that the club is over twenty-one and cannot get in without a fake ID. Tiny calls Jane who takes Will to see a friend of her brother Phil. Phil makes fake IDs. After a short period of time, Will has a new ID with the name Ishmael J. Biafra on it.

During the drive to Phil's Jane leans over to kiss Will, who pulls away. They agree to pretend that the incident never happened.

Chapter four consists mainly of two conversations, one between Will and Maura, the other between Will and Isaac.

Maura arrives at the CVS where Will works on weekends. As usual, Maura wants to grill Will about his sexual preferences. As usual, Will is rude to Maura and she leaves. Later that evening, Maura shows up at Will's house. Maura is wounded that Will is so mean to her. Maura demands to know if Will is gay. Maura has seen Will write "Isaac" repeatedly in his notebook. Will creates a believable lie about Isaac being a character he is developing for something although that something has yet to be defined.

Will watches part of the *Pride and Prejudice* mini-series. She has seen the movie a hundred times but watches it again. She confides to Will that her life is pathetic and that she needs to stop sitting at home waiting for Darcy.

Will goes into his room and is thrilled to find Isaac online. The friends talk about trivial things but then the conversation turns more serious. By the end of the conversation they have decided to meet. Will thinks it is time his life began.

chapters 1-4 Analysis

The reader is introduced to Will Grayson, a student at Evanston High School, which is located on the outskirts of Chicago. Will loves Chicago, although his hometown, Naperville, leaves something to be desired. Will is the typical angst-ridden teenage boy with some extra issues. The first issue is Tiny Cooper, an oversized gay teen that takes every opportunity to express himself in the loudest and most flamboyant way possible. Will and Tiny are best friends, although there are times when Tiny makes Will want to crawl under a rock and hide. Will takes a lot of flak from the other kids because of his relationship with Tiny. Will has no problems with Tiny's sexuality and in fact, always seems to be defending his friend.

Will believes in living life by two rules: 1. Don't care too much; and 2. Shut up. Will believes that these rules serve him well and keep him out of the public eye. This seems to be true, although there are times when Will slips and breaks his own rules.

Will's relationship with his mother is also typical. She is a caring mother, struggling with being a single parent trying to do right by her child. Will is always angry and wants nothing to do with his mother, often treating her poorly. There are times, however, when the relationship is good even though Will thinks it is all pathetic and lame.



The Gay-Straight Alliance seems to have little focus or purpose beyond producing Tiny's musical, "Tiny Dancer". Jane's presence in the group puzzles Will because he cannot figure out if Jane is straight or gay. It takes Tiny's announcement at the meeting to make Will realize that Jane is straight. Tiny plays matchmaker between his two friends with disastrous results.

Being gay is a big focus of the story. Tiny is a drama queen and is in love with a new boy several times a day. Gary is also gay, although his private life remains private for the most part. Will never actually says he is not gay but in fact, he is in love with Isaac, a boy he met online. Will and Isaac spend as much time together as possible and believe that they are in love. Will and Isaac decide to meet and are, at the same time, terrified and excited.



chapters 5-8

chapters 5-8 Summary

Chapter five details a boring weekend at home for Will. There is no reason to go outside. It's cold outside and there is nothing to do. Neither Tiny nor Jane is available or online. Will focuses on doing his homework and studying precalc. Will's father decides that he wants to speak with Will in the living room. The thought of meeting in the living room causes a sense of dread in Will. "My stomach flips a bit because the living room is the room least likely to be lived in, the room where the nonexistence of Santa is revealed, where grandmothers die, where grades are frowned upon, and where one learns that a man's station wagon goes inside a woman's garage, and the exits the garage, and then enters again and so on until an egg is fertilized, and etc" (chap. 5, pp. 74-75).

The conversation revolves around college. Will's parents have a plan to send him to Northwestern where he can complete his undergraduate work and medical school in six years. Will's father tries hard to make the sale to Will, not realizing that Will is on board with the idea. Will thinks that there are worse ways one could make a living.

The plans for "Tiny Dancer" continue to grow and Will is beginning to realize that there is no way he can get out of participating in some way. Tiny insists that Gil Wrayson is a fictional character, which is absurd.

The relationship between Jane and Will continues to be strange and strained. Jane is interested in Will but blames it on a recently ended relationship. Part of Will wants Jane while the other wants to be left alone.

The night finally comes when Tiny, Jane and Will go to see Maybe Dead Cats. Will is excited because they had agreed to play a song for Jane. At the club Will learns that his fake ID states that he is twenty, not twenty-one, so he is turned away at the door. Tiny and Jane have a good laugh and go to the concert without Will. Will is not pleased. In order to kill time, Will visits a porn shop.

Chapter six discusses the day leading up to Will's meeting with Isaac. Will had agreed to be on the mathletes team with Simon and Derek but had to back out because of his date with Isaac. Will bribes Maura into taking his place.

Will is nervous about his date. He spends a great deal of time picking out the right clothes, even though he claims that he is not a "what do I wear guy." Will tells his mother that he is going on a bus trip to Chicago with the mathletes, satisfied that at least part of the story is true.

Will is an anxious mess the entire way to Chicago. When he finally arrives at the location chosen by Isaac, he learns that it is a porn shop. Will wonders if it is some kind



of joke or if Isaac's friend has led him astray. Regardless, Will decides to face up to the situation and seeks out Isaac.

In chapter seven, Will goes into the porn shop looking for Isaac. At this point in the story Will's entire world is turned upside down. There is no Isaac. Inside the store Will meets another kid named Will Grayson. The other Will Grayson (o.w.g.) is also there to meet Isaac. Will does not confide that he, too, has been duped but says that Isaac is probably a fifty-year-old pervert. Both Will Graysons are devastated.

In chapter eight, the story gets even stranger when it seems that both boys have friends named Maura and Tiny. OWG talks to Tiny while Will speaks to Maura. Maura confesses to being Isaac. Suddenly Will feels like his life is over. OWG's friend Tiny appears on the scene and he is as large, if not larger, than Tiny Cooper.

chapters 5-8 Analysis

Will spends time in his usual routine with homework and school. Will's dad is concerned that Will has yet to decide on which college to go to in two years. Will says there is still time to decide. It is clear to Will that his parents have already made the decision for him. Will's father tries hard to convince Will to go to Northwestern and seems to ignore Will's agreement, expecting him to argue. It is one thing that father and son can agree on without starting a fight.

Jane expresses more interest in Will only to be rebuffed. Will is battling with himself over Jane. Part of him wants Jane while the other part is devoted to Isaac as well as not caring too much.

Maura continues to pester Will. Will is only grateful that Maura agrees to go to the mathletes competition in his place.

Will's trip to Chicago is one that perplexes him and gives him what he considers to be the worst moment in his life. The story becomes strange when Will Grayson meets Will Grayson. At times the reader is led to think that Will has had some kind of mental break, although both Wills talk about being in Bizarro World.

Maura calls Will and confesses to being Isaac. Will is devastated. He feels stupid, used, and violated. Will cannot believe that someone could do something so cruel. Will tells Maura off and says he never wants to speak to her again. Will suddenly understands why Maura was constantly asking if he was/is gay. However, if there really is another Will Grayson, the existence of the other Isaac remains a mystery.

At this point in the book, the two authors take turns writing about the two Will Graysons. John Green writes about Will Grayson, the first character, while David Levithan takes on the writing for the character will grayson. The chapters alternate between the two characters. The introduction of Tiny into both lives is somewhat confusing but as long as the reader remembers that the two boys are separate entities, the story flows easily and at times, humorously.



chapters 9-12

chapters 9-12 Summary

In chapter nine, Will and Jane have ten minutes of truth. Jane admits to having an ex-boyfriend that she may want to be with and that part of her wanting Will to go to the concert was to make him jealous. Will does not confess that he was the one that had a song dedicated to her. The ex-boyfriend gets the credit. Will and Jane end up kissing on a bench.

Jane goes home in a cab. Will tries to call Tiny to pick him up, but there is no answer. Will finds his own way home.

Chapter ten details Will's experiences with Tiny. While Tiny falls in love several times a day, Will is confused about his relationship with Tiny.

Will does not believe that it is truly love. Will's experience with the other Tiny makes him believe that perhaps there is love or, at least, truth.

Chapter eleven finds Tiny and Will standing in the hallway putting up posters for "Tiny Dancer". As usual, Tiny is making a scene while he tells Will about his new relationship with will and how they have been texting non-stop since they met. Tiny is being his usual flamboyant self. No matter what Will says, Tiny has to top the story. Will tries to make his point known but Tiny, as usual, is not listening to anything but his own voice. Once again, Will asks that his character's name be changed in the play. Tiny refuses explaining its importance. Will also learns that Tiny has met Randall and told Jane to try to get him back. When Will becomes outraged, Tiny reminds Will that he doesn't want Jane. It is the straw that breaks the camel's back and Will follows his #2 rule: shut up. Will refuses to speak to Tiny for most of the day, which makes Tiny crazy.

Auditions for the play are held that afternoon. None of the people that audition are spectacular. Gary is cast as Will.

In chapter twelve, will is on his way home from chicago. will has received twenty-seven texts from tiny since he left him on the sidewalk. will decides on the train that it is time he tells his mother that he is gay. As soon as will arrives home with his typical bad attitude, he tells his mother about his homosexuality. will is stunned by his mother's immediate acceptance and continues to expect some kind of fallout, but it never comes. will's mother asks about the meeting with isaac. will does not want to tell the whole story, so he simply says that Isaac's nickname is tiny and he is a nice guy. will also tells his mother that he is no longer speaking to maura. will does not explain except to say that maura did something so terrible, hurt will so deeply that she is out of his life forever.

will goes into his room and talks with tiny online.

Lyrics from tiny's play are included in the text:



"Mama and Papa didn't know how well their money was spent

when I learned about love from our production of Rent." (chap. 12, p. 172)

maura approaches will in the hallway. maura apologizes and then attempts to get will to talk to her. will refuses to speak. maura says that it was a joke and that she didn't mean any harm. maura also says that she will be there when will comes around. will thinks he will never come around.

will tells simon and derek at lunch that he is gay. Later, a boy named gideon approaches will in the hallway to ask him out on a date. will explains that he has met someone.

Later that night, will tells tiny that he wants to visit him in chicago. tiny wants to know when they can meet again.

chapters 9-12 Analysis

The two Wills blend together on many levels. The angry gay Will is the one noted by lower case letters. The original Will is struggling with a relationship with Jane and people in general. Their stories are quite a lot alike except that will lives with his single mother while Will lives with both of his parents.

Will and Jane have ten minutes of radical honesty when anything can be said without walking on eggshells or worry that the other person might take something the wrong way. The experience is good for both but Jane comments several times about how she likes this Will better than the normal Will who spends too much time trying to be removed from life. Jane likes the new Will but knows that it is only a temporary appearance. Jane leaves Will on the sidewalk even though he says Tiny will give them a ride home. It turns out that Tiny is unavailable since he is with the other will grayson. Will makes his way home.

Will and his mother seem to have developed a better understanding of one another. Rather, Will is fighting with his mother less and realizes that she means well. This becomes abundantly clear when Will tells his mother that he is gay. There is no big scene or barrage of tears and sorrow as Will had expected. In fact, Will's mother almost seems to be relieved at her son's confession. After all, she had heard Will utter Isaac's name in his sleep. Will thanks his mother for her understanding. His mother says there is no need for a thank you.

Tiny becomes so completely engrossed in his play and the new, other will grayson that Will is all but completely ignored. Tiny does not understand his treatment toward Will until Will stops talking. The only thing that brings Will out of his silence is Jane. Will cannot help but flirt with Jane. Jane says the only reason Will is interested is that she has a boyfriend.

will refuses to have anything to do with maura. maura does not realize how much pain and trauma she has caused will. There is also a great deal of embarrassment and



betrayal. maura thinks that it will all blow over, but will cannot fathom ever talking to maura again, let alone forgiving her.

will tells his friends that he is gay. simon and derek have a slight reaction to the news, yet it is all put into perspective when both boys admit to masturbating to video game characters. will is surprised when gideon approaches him for a date. will likes gideon as a friend but had never considered him as boyfriend material. Once again maura approaches will about his homosexuality.



chapters 13-16

chapters 13-16 Summary

Chapter 13: Will wakes up at 5:43 am to the sound of a car horn blaring outside his house. The horn wakes Will and his parents. Will runs to the entry way to see Tiny's car outside. Tiny is blowing the horn, eager to get Will's attention. Will goes outside and asks Tiny what on earth he is doing. Tiny, hyped up on Red Bull, urges Will to get into the car because they need to get to school. It turns out that Tiny does not actually need Will for anything, he just wants the company while he works on the play. Will goes along for the ride.

The boys discuss the play, "Tiny Dancer" and as usual, talk about Tiny's sense of fabulousness.

Although Tiny is the first to talk about his fabulousity, he tells Will that he realizes the play must be about something more than himself - it needs to be about love. The play is now titled, "Hold me Closer."

Will learns that Jane is allegedly sick although it is clear to him that she is probably spending the day at the botanical gardens with her new boyfriend, who Will refers to as Douchebag McWater Polo. Will does not want to admit that he is jealous.

Will speaks with Tiny later that night and realizes that his best friend has very little time for him outside the play and the other will Grayson. Will attempts to study to no avail.

Will feels like his old stuffed prairie dog, Marvin, who ended up being relegated to the closet after years of undying devotion. Will also obsesses about Jane. Later Will calls Gary and asks for Jane's address. Gary reluctantly gives it and Will goes to visit Jane's house. The couple talks while sitting on the porch swing of an empty house. Amongst other things, they talk about Schrodinger's maybe dead cat theory.

Chapter 14:

The other will Grayson's mother invites tiny to dinner. It is important to her to meet tiny before will goes anywhere with him. will says it is likely that she has checked the sexual predator websites to ensure that tiny is not a convicted pedophile. will's mother starts to clean the house as if someone has thrown up on the furniture.

will denies being nervous about the first dinner with his mother and tiny. The truth is that will is more nervous about how his mother will act, not how tiny will be received. tiny arrives in a silver Mercedes which seems to make will more nervous than anything. tiny brings a present for will's mother, a glass bowl that practically makes the woman weep. will is confused. In the end, the dinner goes quite well and it seems that will's mother not only approves of but openly adores tiny.



The boys go to will's room after dinner to talk.

Chapter 15:

Tiny is not in precalc in the morning but Will decides that his friend is probably in the auditorium fretting over the play. Will passes Tiny in the hall and the two exchange a couple of words. At lunch, Will goes to the auditorium after no one shows up in the cafeteria. Will listens in as Tiny gives instructions to Gary and the others. Will is still uncomfortable that Phil Wrayson is a major part in the play although Tiny keeps insisting that Phil is fictional. Will and Tiny have an argument. Will leaves the auditorium, silently hoping that Tiny will follow and apologize. Tiny does not appear.

Will is too upset to stay at school so he leaves to go to the dugout at the Little League field, one of the places that Will still feels safe. While at the field Will thinks about Tiny, Jane and the current state of his life. Will cries for a long time before calling Jane. Eventually, Will decides to go home and calls to ask his father to notify the school. Later that evening Jane goes to the Grayson's house where she meets Will's father. Will's father approves of Jane although Will pretends not to care.

Chapter 16:

tiny is having a stressful day and decides to take a mental health day. tiny calls will grayson and says that he is going to visit him at school. The other will grayson is surprised that tiny has decided to visit. will tells gideon about the trip. gideon says he thinks it is sweet that tiny would make the trip even though there is no sex involved.

tiny arrives. will feels strange about the visit but does not say so to tiny. tiny is gregarious and outgoing which pleases and embarrasses will at the same time. tiny meets all of will's friends. Will is horrified when tiny goes to speak to maura. tiny thanks maura for inventing isaac because he never would have met will otherwise. maura is surprised; will is furious.

will convinces tiny to leave school with him. They end up sitting on a neighbor's swing set. will and tiny have a long talk in which tiny tells will that his life is not nearly as easy as everyone thinks it is for him. will shuts down and in the end, the boys break up. Suddenly will realizes that he does have feelings. Will reaches out to tiny to no avail.

chapters 13-16 Analysis

Will struggles with the fact that Tony has a boyfriend, Jane has a girlfriend and he feels completely out of the loop. Although everyone knows that Will is jealous, he won't admit it, even to himself.

Will begins to realize that he is not the one who has saved Tiny all these years; it is Tiny who has saved him. Now that Tiny has will and the play, Will is left out in the cold. Will is angry, hurt, and lost. There is some hope when Tiny asks Will to go to school at the crack of dawn and although the plan seems silly to Will, he is grateful to be included.



Will is also grateful for what little attention he receives from Jane, even if it is on a friendship level.

The other will grayson is becoming more comfortable with his homosexuality. In fact, will's mother is even more comfortable with it, which sometimes makes will uncomfortable. tiny and Mrs. Grayson hit it off much to will's surprise. will is unsure of his relationship and feelings about tiny. Mentally, will adores tiny but because he is unaccustomed to the physical expression of romance which tends to puzzle him in some ways.

Will begins to see that his "not caring" way of life is false and that he does care about certain people and things, including his future, Tiny, and Jane. This creates a great struggle for Will who is suddenly confused by his ability to have and feel his feelings. Expressing feelings is not something will has the ability to do just yet and that realization creates problems when Will expects others to know and understand what is going on inside.

The other will grayson is in the same predicament at this time, not being able to understand or express what is going on with his emotions. Like the original Will, the o.w.g. must struggle to find his place and understand what is happening before he can begin to right his relationships.



chapters 17-20

chapters 17-20 Summary

Chapter 17:

It is three days before the opening of "Hold Me Closer". Will and Tiny are speaking again but the conversations are relatively trite and empty of any meaning. After precalc, Will meets Jane by her locker. Jane tells Will that Tiny and will have broken up. Will is stunned because Tiny just said everything was fine. Will is visibly upset.

Jane and Will play Scrabble at his house, during which they discuss their official dating status. Will has taken to putting notes containing poetry into Jane's locker each day.

Will writes a letter to Tiny but does not email it. Tiny still acts as if nothing is wrong. Tiny eventually tells Will that he and will have ended their relationship.

Will goes to the dugout to clear his head and think through everything that has been happening with Tiny. Will feels left out and ignored. Tiny arrives at the dugout and the boys talk. Will explains his feelings to Tiny: "You totally ditch me every time you have a boyfriend, and then you come crawling back when you're heartbroken. You don't listen to me. You don't even seem to like me. You get obsessed with the play and totally ignore me except to insult me to our friend behind my back, and you exploit your life and the people you care about so that your little play can make people love you and think how awesome you are and how liberated you are and how wondrously gay you are, but you know what? Being gay is not an excuse for being a dick" (chap. 17, p. 259).

Tiny apologizes for his behavior and Will realizes once again that Tiny is not the only one at fault.

Chapter 18: will grayson is still feeling miserable. He and Will Grayson talk online for a long time. will needs to talk about tiny but feels strange talking to the original Will about the situation. Will seems to be open to talking about tiny and tells will that everything seems to be fine, although tiny is stressed out because the play opens the next day. will asks Will how he can be optimistic about relationships and knowing when to give up on trial and error. Will says that one never knows if trial and error is simply try-and-error. The problem is that many people give up after the first error and may miss out on the next "try" that could actually work. Will also tells o.w.g. that he should go to tiny's play. Will says that o.w.g. should call in case he does decide to make the trip so that tiny can be warned ahead of time.

will talks to gideon about his problem with tiny. Although will and gideon are really only friends at school, will feels like gideon is one of the few people that understands what he is going through after the breakup. gideon supports will's mother's idea to go to the play, and also to talk to maura. will cannot bear to think of talking to maura but considers attending the play. Gideon tells will that he needs closure even if it means not



getting back together with tiny. "i'm not saying you and tiny should be together forever and have huge, depressed babies that have periods of manic thinness, but i do think the way the two of you left it is pretty unhelpful, and i'd bet twenty dollars if i had twenty dollars that he is suffering from the same waves of crappiness that you're suffering from, or he's found a new boyfriend." (chap. 18, p. 273)

will decides that gideon is right, that he needs to go to the play. He also gives in and talks to maura.

The chapter ends with gideon sharing an idea that will refers to as being brilliant, sick and twisted.

Chapter 19: Will and Jane create the music for the musical interludes, including a variety of modern punk songs and nine versions of "Over the Rainbow". Later, Tiny announces that he HATES "Over the Rainbow". Will and Jane promise to fix the problem.

Tiny is in the bathroom backstage at the auditorium getting sick an hour before show time. Will is surprised that Tiny is so nervous that he vomits repeatedly. Tiny worries that he has ruined his vocal cords for the evening. Tea with honey and Pepto-Bismol give Tiny the necessary relief.

Tiny asks Will to look and see if will grayson is in the audience. He is not. Will stops to talk to his parents, surprised that they are in attendance. Tiny invited them via Facebook.

Will and Jane are in the wings for the majority of the show. Will is surprised at Tiny's memory of their days together in Little League.

Will is flooded with memories of his youth and years in Little League. Will is also stunned at the accuracy with which Gary portrays him in freshman year. Suddenly, Will no longer minds that the play is basically non-fiction, although it is advertised otherwise.

Jane and Will laugh uproariously over some of Tiny's lyrics and praise him between scenes. Even the more serious scene of Tiny coming out to his parents garners laughs from the audience. "His dad is sitting silent while his mom sings about unconditional love. The song is only funny because Tiny keeps cutting in with other comings-out each time his mom sings. "We'll always love our Tiny," like, "Also, I cheated in algebra," and "There's a reason your vodka tastes watered down," and "I feed my peas to the dog." (chap. 19, p. 289)

Tiny comes out to Will aka Phil onstage. Will/Phil seems stunned but is okay with the whole thing when Tiny says he would rather date a kangaroo than his best friend.

The second part of the play is about to begin. Tiny talks over the loud speakers as if the audience is being addressed by God. Suddenly, Will's phone rings. The caller ID lets Will know that will grayson is on the other end of the line.



Chapter 20:

will and gideon are anxious as gideon fights the Chicago traffic. The traffic is worse than usual. The only way will and gideon can remain calm is by having a swearing contest. The boys discuss the plan. will says that gideon must be crazy for thinking of such a plan; gideon says he only thought of it, that will must be crazy for actually doing it. will agrees that he must be crazy as the plan goes against the rules he has set for himself and religiously follows every day. will says that the plan requires him to do many things he would not usually do, including:

- "talking to strangers
- asking strangers for favors
- being willing to make a complete fool of myself
- letting someone else (gideon help me)"

(Chap. 20, p. 294)

The plan also includes will's ability to give into things that are beyond his control, including:

"The kindness of strangers

The ability of strangers to be spontaneous

The ability of strangers to drive quickly

Tiny's musical lasting more than one act."

(Chap. 20, pp. 294-295)

will and gideon arrive at Evanston High School in time for the scene in which tiny and will break up. There are eighteen boyfriends that appear in the scene. By the time will meets Will, Tiny is singing about boyfriend #5. Will wonders if all relationships can be boiled down into a single line. "that's it - hundreds of texts and conversations, thousands upon thousands of words spoken and sent, all boiled down into a single line. Is that what relationships become? A reduced version of the hurt, nothing else let in. it was more than that. I know it was more than that." (Chap. 20, p. 298)

Will and will discuss the plan. Both Wills think it is equally insane and brilliant. Will questions whether the people who have agreed to come will actually show up at the play. will believes that the people will keep their word but if not, at least there are two Will Graysons present. Will says that will has to go first. Tiny is worth the public declaration of admiration and love but there is no way that Will feels he can be the first to make the declaration.



Tiny continues his analysis of falling in love. There is a soliloquy that reveals everything Tiny thinks about love. Falling in love means eventually landing and sometimes the landing hurts. The other phil wrayson says that the falling hurts too much and one cannot enjoy the falling when one knows how it all ends. Tiny disagrees. To prove a point, Tiny hurtles himself off the swing set to collapse onto the stage. No one is entirely sure if the move was planned. Tiny felt the need to drive the point home.

There is only a moment of silence between the end of the play and the thunderous applause that is sure to follow. It is during this moment that will grayson shouts out to Tiny. Will tells Tiny that he loves and appreciates him. Soon after, a chorus of other voices joins in. Gideon's plan comes to life as each Will (plus one Wilma) Grayson professes appreciation for Tiny Cooper. Each actor follows suit. The plan worked and now Tiny Cooper knows that he is truly loved and appreciated by all.

chapters 17-20 Analysis

The musical is the catalyst for the inevitable changes that are about to take place in each character's life. The Will Graysons admit that their lives changes the day they met, most certainly for the better.

Tiny lives out his life on the stage which is the perfect venue for someone that is flamboyant and over the top. The musical turns out to be so good that Will no longer minds his role in the play and instead enjoys reminiscing with Tiny.

will grayson and gideon continue to form a strong bond as they make their way to the musical. will finally realizes what it means to need and accept others and is willing to make a fool of himself by making a public declaration of his love for Tiny Cooper.

The reader is given insight to the growth of each character and can easily see how the crossing of their paths has given each a new way of looking at life.

The authors manage to wrap up the play in a clever and satisfying way. All available Will Graysons attend Tiny's play and let him know that he is loved and appreciated. This is especially poignant coming from will grayson, the boy that could not profess to love Tiny as he wanted to be loved and Will Grayson, who at one time thought Tiny was a self-indulgent albatross around his neck. Each boy comes to realize the importance of Tiny Cooper in his life and is prepared to announce it to the world. The pay off is that Tiny finally knows how they feel and can, perhaps for the first time, know what it is like to truly be loved for who and what you are.



Characters

Will Grayson

Will Grayson is a teenage boy living in the Naperville section of the Chicago suburbs. Will is from an upper middle class family in the suburbs. Will's parents are busy but caring individuals who routinely watch over him and his activities, at least as much as Will will allow.

Will attends Evanston High School. Will is a decent student who prefers to keep to himself as much as possible and believes that his skill of remaining distant from others will help him to survive his school years. Will gives insight into his character through his relationships to others, particularly Tiny and Jane. Will tends to feel disenfranchised for a great deal of the story and his actions and feelings allow the reader to understand what it is to be filled with typical teenage angst.

Will has two rules for living - 1. Don't care too much; and 2. Shut up. Will believes that these rules serve him well and keep him out of the public eye. This is difficult to accomplish because Will's best friend since the fifth grade is Tiny Cooper, an overly large gay teen that takes every opportunity to be flamboyant.

"Tiny Cooper is not the world's gayest person, and is not the world's largest person, but I believe he may be the world's largest person who is really, really gay, and also the world's gayest person who is really, really large." (chap. 1, page 3)

Will struggles with his feelings toward Jane, a girl that eventually becomes his girlfriend, and realizes that perhaps removing oneself from society isn't as wise as he had led himself to believe.

will grayson

will grayson is the other main character in the story, written by David Levithan. will grayson meets Will Grayson when the boys go to the same seedy porn shop in Chicago. Both boys are scheduled to meet Isaac, the potential love of their lives. However, there is no Isaac. The new will grayson, referred to by Will Grayson as "the other will grayson" (o.w.g.), seems to be a bit softer and more naive than Will Grayson.

The story gets even stranger when it seems that both boys have friends named Maura and Tiny.

There are a plethora of similarities between the Will Graysons. Both are high school students in the suburbs of Chicago. Both have friends with all the same names. The difference is that o.w.g. is the son of a single mother who often struggles to ensure that her son has the best she can offer with little to no support from any other source. Also, the o.w.g. is learning about his homosexuality. This is a challenge for the young man



who already struggles with dealing with any type of feelings whatsoever. The o.w.g. is also continuously angry at everyone and everything.

Tiny Cooper

Tiny Cooper is Will Grayson's best friend and the love interest of will grayson (o.w.g.). Will Grayson is a reluctant friend to the flamboyant Tiny, who takes every opportunity to be as outlandish as possible and routinely tells anyone that will listen about his "fabulosity".

As Will Grayson states: "Tiny Cooper is not the world's gayest person, and is not the world's largest person, but I believe he may be the world's largest person who is really, really gay, and also the world's gayest person who is really, really large" (chap. 1, p. 3).

Jane

Jane is an enigmatic girl who is friends with Will, Tiny and Gary. Jane is an excellent student with a bit of a rebellious streak. Jane becomes Will Grayson's girlfriend.

Maura

Maura is a friend of Will Grayson's. It is Maura who invented Isaac, the boy that Will Grayson was supposed to meet in Chicago.

tiny

tiny is will grayson's best friend. tiny is very similar to Tiny Cooper except that he may actually be larger.

Simon and Derek

Simon and Derek are friends to Will Grayson. The boys are part of the Mathletes club and attempt to be as supportive as possible of Will's strange ways. There are also versions of simon and derek in o.w.g.'s world.

Gideon

Gideon is an openly gay boy at Evanston High School. Gideon and Will become friends when Will thinks he might be gay. There is also a version of gideon in o.w.g.'s world.

Isaac

Isaac is the name of the boy invented by Maura to trick Will Grayson into admitting that he is gay.

Nick and Gary

Nick and Gary are a gay couple in school that are friends of Tiny's and belong to the Gay-Straight Alliance.



Objects/Places

Chicago

Will Grayson, *Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan is set mainly in Chicago, Illinois, a major metropolitan area in the midwestern United States. The midwest is known as being more or less neutral in its speech and regionalisms, which allows the reader to understand the characters without having to muddle through terms and speech patterns that may differ wildly from the rest of the country.

Will Grayson is a student at Evanston High School, located on the outskirts of Chicago. Will loves Chicago although his hometown, Naperville, leaves something to be desired. Will, however, loves Chicago proper. There is something about the smell that Will likes plus there always seems to be something to do in the city which is certainly not true in Naperville. The teens frequently go into the city for concerts or day trips just for fun. In the main turning point in the story, Will and will both go to the same porn store in Chicago to meet Isaac, a would-be love interest that does not exist.

The suburbs are much like any other suburbs with fast food joints, quiet housing developments, schools, and a Little League field that serves as one of Will's favorite places to go to collect his thoughts and to relive his glory days in Little League when he and Tiny first became friends.

Tiny Dancer/Hold Me Closer

"Tiny Dancer" is the name of the play written by Tiny Cooper. The play is a very thinly veiled account of Tiny Cooper's life with a large focus on the teenage boy's homosexuality and overall high school experience. Tiny is like a vortex that manages to suck in anyone that shows any interest whatsoever in the play. Because "Tiny Dancer" promises to be "an epic production of history's most awesome high school musical", (overleaf) everyone wants to be a part of it. The only person that seems to have some reservations is Will Grayson, Tiny's best friend since the fifth grade. In the play, Tiny has "fictionalized" Will's character into Phil Wrayson. Will is not thrilled by the homage, yet he still tries to support Tiny. "It's basically Tiny's slightly fictionalized life story, except it is sung, and it is - I mean, I don't use this adjective lightly - the gayest single musical in all of human history." (chap. 3, p. 39)

Later in the story, Tiny has an epiphany regarding the musical. Tiny decides that "Tiny Dancer" must be about something more than just Tiny's life - it must be about love. Tiny rewrites the entire score and retitles it, "Hold Me Closer."



Evanston High School

Evanston High School is the name of the high school attended by Will Grayson, Tiny Cooper, Gary, Nick, Jane, Maura and others.

Porn Shop

Will Grayson and will grayson meet inside a seedy porn shop in Chicago. Both boys are at the porn shop to meet Isaac, a boy that does not exist.

Little League Field

The Little League Field is Will's favorite place to go when he is feeling upset or confused. It is a place that holds many good memories of his Little League years with Tiny.

Lake Shore Drive

Lake Shore Drive is one of the main streets that runs through Chicago. It is one of the most highly recognizable areas of Chicago.

Auditorium

Tiny and the other characters spend a great deal of time in the high school auditorium as Tiny prepares for the production of Tiny Dancer/Hold Me Closer.

Precalc

Pre-calculus, aka precalc, is the first class in the morning shared by Tiny and Will. The boys often talk about their problems during this class.

Gay-Straight Alliance

The Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) is the name of the pro-alternative lifestyle group started by Tiny at Evanston High School.

Will's House

A great deal of the action in Will's life outside of school takes place at home. Will is often home alone because both of his parents routinely work late at the hospital.



Themes

Friendship

Friendship is one of the main themes in *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan. The main friendships analyzed in the story are between Will Grayson, Tiny Cooper, Jane, and Maura. While others come and go, such as Derek, Simon, Gideon, Gary and Nick, these are the main people in Will Grayson's life. The same can be said for will grayson (o.w.g.) as his relationships closely parallel those of Will Grayson.

For a time Will Grayson had a "Group of Friends" when Tiny was too busy with his own fabulous life but the "Group of Friends" fell apart rather quickly when Will stood up for Tiny in the school newspaper. Will realizes rather quickly that he is meant to be best friends with Tiny Cooper. At first Will thinks that he is doing Tiny a favor by being his friend. Later in the story, Will realizes that he is the lucky one. Will is grateful that Tiny is his friend and wonders: "I don't understand why this boy who writes musicals about himself is sitting with me. Am I that pathetic? Does he get a merit badge for picking up the pieces of a wrecked human being?" (chap. 10, pp. 148-149)

Maura is the true definition of "frenemy". It is Maura who violates Will's trust and friendship by creating Isaac, although she claims it was done with good intentions and the only reason for the charade was to get Will to admit that he is gay. This is the action that ends the relationship between Maura and Will.

Teenage Angst

The main characters in the story are teens from the suburbs of Chicago. Will Grayson attends Evanston High School. Will is a decent student who prefers to keep to himself as much as possible and believes that his skill of remaining distant from others will help him to survive his school years. Will gives insight into his character through his relationships to others, particularly Tiny and Jane. Will tends to feel disenfranchised for a great deal of the story and his actions and feelings allow the reader to understand what it is to be filled with typical teenage angst.

Will has two rules for living - 1. Don't care too much; and 2. Shut up. Will believes that these rules serve him well and keep him out of the public eye. This is Will's way of attempting to deal with teenage angst. His friends have equal if not greater portions of this angst, although Willis often unable to see it through his own - often self-imposed - misery. For example, Will thinks that Tiny is unflappable and his outlandish behavior is natural and unaffected. However, Tiny explains to Will at one point that it is not easy being Tiny Cooper, but that being outlandish and flamboyant is Tiny's way with dealing with the same issues faced by all teens, over and above his apparent homosexuality.



Sexuality

Sexuality is a main theme in the book. There are many characters in the book that are openly homosexual. Others, like Will Grayson and even to a lesser degree Will Grayson, struggle with sexuality. Both boys fall for Isaac, an invented persona. Isaac forces Will to explore his sexuality. Will gives into the romance of the situation, more so out of loneliness than out of his desire to be gay. The other Will Grayson struggles slightly less, due to the fact that he often does not care what other people think and in fact, being treated poorly because of his sexual preference would only give him more reasons to be angry.

Will frequently stands up for Tiny when Tiny is faced with adversity over his sexuality. Will stands up in part because Tiny is his friend but also because Will feels that Tiny should be treated just like everyone else despite the fact that he's gay.

"Tiny Cooper is not the world's gayest person, and is not the world's largest person, but I believe he may be the world's largest person who is really, really gay, and also the world's gayest person who is really, really large." (chap. 1, page 3)

In the end, Will Grayson is satisfied with his decision to come out into the open, while Will is pleased to be able to explore his feelings for Jane.

Style

Point of View

The point of view used in *Will Grayson*, *Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan is the first person. The two voices of the story's narrators belong to Will Grayson and will grayson.

The first Will Grayson is a teenage boy living in the Naperville section of the Chicago suburbs. Will attends Evanston High School. Will is a decent student who prefers to keep to himself as much as possible and believes that his skill of remaining distant from others will help him to survive his school years. Will gives insight into his character through his relationships to others, particularly Tiny and Jane. Will tends to feel disenfranchised for a great deal of the story and his actions and feelings allow the reader to understand what it is to be filled with typical teenage angst.

The other will grayson is involved in understanding his own sexuality while dealing with similar issues faced by Will Grayson. This will grayson, who is always portrayed in lower case letters and is often referred to as o.w.g (the other will grayson), is a secondary character to the first Will Grayson, albeit equally important.

The point of view in the story is important as it follows Will Grayson and will grayson through a series of traumatic events mostly relating to their individual relationships. The first person point of view is ideal for expressing emotions and actions, even when they are not understood by the character.

The reader may notice other differences in the two characters, as Will Grayson's story is written by John Green and will grayson's story is written by David Levithan.

Setting

Will Grayson, *Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan is set mainly in Chicago, Illinois, a major metropolitan area in the midwestern United States. The midwest is known as being more or less neutral in its speech and regionalisms, which allows the reader to understand the characters without having to muddle through terms and speech patterns that may differ wildly from the rest of the country.

Will Grayson is a student at Evanston High School, located on the outskirts of Chicago. Will loves Chicago although his hometown, Naperville, leaves something to be desired. Will, however, loves Chicago proper. There is something about the smell that Will likes plus there always seems to be something to do in the city which is certainly not true in Naperville. The teens frequently go into the city for concerts or day trips just for fun. In the main turning point in the story, Will and will both go to the same porn store in Chicago to meet Isaac, a would-be love interest that does not exist.



The suburbs are much like any other suburbs with fast food joints, quiet housing developments, schools, and a Little League field that serves as one of Will's favorite places to go to collect his thoughts and to relive his glory days in Little League when he and Tiny first became friends.

Language and Meaning

The language used in *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan is timeless and easily identifiable. The informal language creates a relaxed atmosphere while letting the humor show through. The main characters in the story are teens so there is a great deal of modern vernacular, mostly when it comes to discussing text messages and online chats. Several of the characters, Tiny in particular, never seems to be without his cell phone through which he receives dozens of text messages per day, usually from a current beau. Several of the characters participate in instant messages in the evenings. This is seen the most with Will and Isaac during the early part of the story.

Although the main characters are teens, there are adults present in the story, including the parents of Will Grayson and will grayson. The authors take care to keep the language casual and age appropriate. For example, the narrative language is slightly more formal and structured but manages to flow seamlessly with the common language. There are different styles of speech from the old school to street slang. All are age appropriate and work together in a smooth fashion. One or two word non-sequiturs are rampant throughout the novel. The language also shows the level of intimacy between the characters, revealing relationships that are not always obvious.

Tiny Cooper is writing a musical which uses its own kind of rhythmic language. Tiny often breaks into song or rhyme to get points across. The language adds an element of fun and also gives the reader more insight into Tiny's flamboyant character.

Structure

Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan is a work of fiction. The book is divided into twenty chapters. The shortest chapter is seven pages in length; the longest chapter is twenty-four pages in length. The average length of the chapters is sixteen pages.

The story is written in chronological order. The first chapter is written by John Green and is from the point of view of Will Grayson, a teenage high school student from Naperville, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Green's character, Will Grayson, has the same name as the second character will grayson, which is written by David Levithan. In order to keep the characters separate, the odd numbered chapters are written by Green in the persona of Will Grayson; the even numbered chapters are written by Levithan in the persona of will grayson. Green's character, Will Grayson, is always noted through using capital letters while Levithan's will grayson is written in lower case, a la ee cummings. The writing used throughout will grayson's story is all in lower case, including the names

of the other characters. Will Grayson often refers to will grayson as o.w.g. (the other will grayson) to further distinguish the characters.

Most of the book is written in a typical style except for the sections in which the characters are communicating online. At those times, the dialogue is written as one might write a play. There are also references to Tiny's musical in which the words/lyrics are written in a typical musical fashion.



Quotes

"Tiny Cooper is not the world's gayest person, and is not the world's largest person, but I believe he may be the world's largest person who is really, really gay, and also the world's gayest person who is really, really large."

Chap. 1, p. 3

"I point out that Tiny Cooper had about 11, 542 girlfriends freshman year, and then Tiny punches me in the arm in a way that he thinks is playful but actually causes permanent nerve damage."

Chap. 1, p. 11

"You can trust that caring, as a rule, turns out poorly."

Chap.1, p. 18

"i feel like my life is so scattered right now. like it's all these small pieces of paper and someone's turned on the fan. but talking to you makes me feel like the fan's been turned off for a little bit. like things could actually make sense you completely unscatter me, and i appreciate that so much.

GOD I AM SO IN LOVE."

Chap. 2, p. 37

"My stomach flips a bit because the living room is the room least likely to be lived in, the room where the nonexistence of Santa is revealed, where grandmothers die, where grades are frowned upon, and where one learns that a man's station wagon goes inside a woman's garage, and the exits the garage, and then enters again and so on until an egg is fertilized, and etc."

Chap. 5, pp. 74-75

"I'm tired of going where I'm pushed."

Chap. 5, p. 92

"One day you wake up and you realize something, you see something in a way that you never saw it before and boom, epiphany. Something is different forever."

Chap. 9, p. 130

"I don't understand why this boy who writes musicals about himself is sitting with me. Am I that pathetic? Does he get a merit badge for picking up the pieces of a wrecked human being?"

Chap. 10, pp. 148-149

"Mama and Papa didn't know how well their money was spent when I learned about love from our production of Rent."

Chap. 12, p. 172



"I've known Tiny Cooper since he was a very large and very gay fifth grader."
Chap. 13, p. 186

"'One of these days,' I tell myself, 'you'll learn to truly shut up and not care.'"
Chap. 13, p. 189

"Not that smart. Not that hot. Not that nice. Not that funny. That's me: I'm not that."
Chap. 13, p. 192

Topics for Discussion

Why do you think John Green and David Levithan decided to write Will Grayson, Will Grayson? What was the purpose in creating two characters that could easily be alter egos? Which Will Grayson is the most realistic? Do you think the boys are two separate entities or one in the same?

Examine Maura's motives in creating Isaac. Why do you think Maura would do something like that? Do you think Maura was intentionally trying to be cruel? Would you be able to forgive Maura if you were in Will's shoes? Explain.

Describe the personality of Tiny Cooper. Compare and contrast it to the personality of the other tiny. Who is more flamboyant? Which has the bigger impact in the story? How are the Tinys different?

Examine will grayson's anger. Why do you think will is so angry? What causes will to be so negative toward others, including his mother? What might have happened to will to make him act this way? What might happen to make will see the error of his ways?

Explore the relationship between Will and Jane. Why do you think it is so difficult for Will to be true to himself while exploring relationships with other people? Do you think Tiny was right when he said that Will acts that way out of fear? What is Jane's opinion of Will?

Examine the concept of "radical honesty". Who introduces the concept into the story? What prompts the first session of radical honesty? Is it a valid experiment? Are there further experiments with radical honesty? How might it work in real life?

Describe the personalities of Will Grayson and will grayson. Compare and contrast the personalities of the boys. Who is more important? Which character is portrayed best? Which has the bigger impact in the story? How are the Wills different?