

# Ginger Mancino, KID COMEDIAN



## BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Ginger never attended public school until she started middle school for the first time. How do you think she felt? How do you feel when you're in a new situation for the first time? Some examples might include playing a new sport, joining a new club, performing in a recital, or anything else you try for the very first time.
- 2 When Ginger first meets Daisy she mistakenly thinks Daisy must know how to speak Spanish because her last name is Gonzales. Why is this assumption wrong? How do you think it made Daisy feel? How did it make Ginger feel?
- 3 After Ginger's disastrous talent show appearance, she hides out at home and even ignores Daisy. Why do you think she does this? Do you think this was the best way to handle her feelings?
- 4 In the talent show Ginger "punches down" by insulting a person for something that he can't control. What is an example of punching down? What is an example of punching up?
- 5 Ginger's comedy idols are people she looks up to not only because of how funny they are, but also because of how they handle the ups and downs of life. Who is someone you look up to? Why?
- 6 There are a number of times in the book when Ginger has to be brave: when she goes back to school after the talent show, when she stands up for Daisy and Aanya against a bully, when she stands up for herself against another bully, and even when she has to make her big decision at the end of the book. What does it mean to you to be brave? When was a time that you had to be brave?
- 7 When Ginger meets Chance's friends one of them criticizes her comedy act and tells her he could have done it better. Ginger doesn't get upset because she's confident in her humor. Instead, she tells him he's not funny. Do you think that was the right way to handle it?
- 8 At the end of the book Ginger is faced with a big decision: she has to choose between two things that are very important to her. Were you surprised by her decision? Why or why not? Have you ever had to choose between two things that were very important to you? How did you make your decision?
- 9 Ginger was surprised that her mom was supporting her and her desire to fit in at school, even though it didn't seem like she was. Have your parents ever surprised you like that? Or have they given you support when you didn't expect it?



Visit [www.gingermancino.com](http://www.gingermancino.com) for more fun!

# GINGER'S COMEDY RULES



1. **Humor is subjective.** That means not everyone laughs at the same things. Your reaction to a joke will be based on personal feelings, tastes, or opinions. It's why your brother may think a TikTok video of a singing cat is hilarious, but you don't. (That's a bad example because everyone thinks singing cats are hilarious.)

2. **Punch up, not down.** Don't make fun of people for things they can't change. If a joke makes someone sad or hurts their feelings, then it's not funny. But you can "punch up" at people in power, like this: "Q: Why do cyclops get along so well? A: They always see eye to eye."

3. **If someone says something you don't think is funny, you don't have to laugh.** Ginger follows Amy Poehler's advice to girls, but it goes for everyone. Sometimes a "joke" strikes us as not funny because it's making fun of someone else.

4. **Scatological humor (like fart jokes) are the lowest form of humor.** It's okay if someone laughs at them. It just doesn't have to be you.

5. **Jokes have two parts.** Set-up (unfunny part) and punchline (funny part).

6. **Never steal jokes!** Comedians and writers work hard to create their own material, so if you tell a joke you heard on TV, be sure to say where it's from.

7. **Humor is a great way to get through tough times.** Laughter IS the best medicine!

8. **The most important rule of comedy: BE CONFIDENT!** And if you don't feel confident yet, just do what Ginger did: fake it till you make it!