

# BEAUTY and the BIN

JOANNE O'CONNELL



## DISCUSSION NOTES

1. **"The bin was so full of fresh, vibrant produce, it looked like one of those earth bowls on Instagram."**

The Larksies have decided to become Garbage Guzzlers to help save the planet. Look up the definition of food waste and discuss what food waste means. What impact on the planet do you think food waste has?

2. The Larksies have rescued food from the supermarket bin. The food is perfectly edible, why do you think it was thrown away? Are there things that supermarkets could do rather than throw away food?

3. Think about your day-to-day lives. Do you think there is food going to waste? Are there steps you could take in your own lives to reduce food waste in your own homes or school?  
Discuss some local food waste initiatives.

*\*Challenge! Why not take a look in the food waste bin in the school canteen at the end of lunchtime? Do you think there is a lot of food that has been thrown away?\**

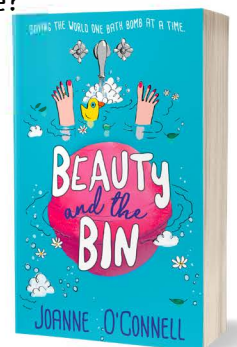
4. Laurie describes her family as 'eco-friendly' and 'anti-consumer'. What do you think these terms mean?

5. At the Really Really Free Market there are lots of different stalls. Discuss the different stalls available and what they are giving away. What do you think about these things being given away for free?

6. **"The theme for the competition is as follows: If I could invent one thing to make the world a better place..."**

Discuss what it means to be an entrepreneur in this way. Are there any businesses or companies you can think of that are trying to make the world a better place?

7. Laurie decides to team up with Charley for the competition rather than her best friends Zainab and Emilia. Why do you think she made that choice? Would you have made the same decision?



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8. When Laurie goes to the café with her friends she doesn't have as much money as they have. How can we talk about money with friends?  
Is it important to be sensitive to friends who have different amounts of spending money to us? How can we make everyone feel comfortable and make it easier?
9. Laurie finds it hard to let her friends meet her family. Why do you think that is? Do you ever feel embarrassed about your friends meeting your family?
10. On School Stories, Charley portrays a certain image of herself. What do you think about the image Charley creates for her social media account? Think about the social media accounts you follow. Do you think they give an accurate representation of themselves and their lives?
11. At the end of the book there are some tips from Laurie and some recipes to create your own 'Beauty in the Kitchen' creations.  
Do you think you could come up with your own DIY recipe?



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