**El Deafo**

**AUTHOR:** Cece Bell  
**PUBLISHER:** Amulet Books  
**COPYRIGHT DATE:** 2014  
**GENRE:** Fiction  
**LEXILE:** GN420L (GN=Graphic Novel: The book is a graphic novel or comic book.)

**SUMMARY:**  
Cece loses her hearing after becoming ill and struggles with finding a new normal for communicating that doesn’t make her stand out from others. Cece also faces the challenges of any child who moves to a new place. However, she learns to turn her difference into a strength. She eventually finds a true friend to share her adventures, as El Deafo, the superhero who can hear everything.

**BOOKTALK:**  
*El Deafo* is the story of a little girl challenged to make new friends after moving to a new home, but with the added challenge of being different. Once she makes a new friend, new challenges arise. While the topic is serious, the book is hilarious. How will Cece deal with people treating her differently? What will she do when she realizes that she has a special “superpower”? Will she ever find a true friend? Read all about Cece and her journey while laughing out loud at her thought bubbles and snarky remarks in this graphic novel.

**AUTHOR’S NAME:** Cece Bell

**Author’s Website:** [https://cecebelle.wordpress.com/](https://cecebelle.wordpress.com/)

**Other books written by the author:**  
*Bee-Wigged*  
*Itty Bitty*  
*Food Friends*  
*Busy Buddies*  
*Sock Monkey Goes to Hollywood*  
*Sock Monkey Boogie Woogie*  
*Sock Monkey Rides Again*  
*Sock Monkey in the Spotlight*

**CHALLENGING WORDS**

- offending (p70)-irritating, annoying, or causing anger
- foreign (p73)-not native
- obnoxious (p80)-highly offensive
- interrogate (p99)-to examine by asking questions
accosted (p100)-confronted boldly

menacing (p100)-threatens to cause evil, harm, or injury

foe (p100)-an enemy

dastardly (p101)-cowardly

persuasion (p113)-the act of convincing

spectacles (163)-eyeglasses

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. In the beginning of the story, how do you think Cece felt when Emma was offering her something to drink? (p. 25)

2. Why do you think Cece didn’t tell the girls at the slumber party what she was thinking? (p.98)

3. Throughout the story, Cece learns what characteristics she values the most in a friendship. What characteristics do you look for when finding new friends?

4. How do you think Cece’s move at the beginning of the story helped her to grow as a person?

5. While *El Deafo* brings some challenging situations to light, it also looks at the humorous side of the situations. What are some things in the story that made you laugh?

6. Why do you think Cece decided to share the story of El Deafo with Martha at the end of the story?

7. Cece’s hearing loss is a challenge she is asked to confront each day. It makes her different from her classmates. Is this something you can relate to? Do you understand how it feels to be different? Is there a story from your own life that illustrates this feeling? (text to self connection)

**ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:**

**Language Arts:**

- Illustrate Cece and label the illustration with character traits that she displays throughout *El Deafo*. Then, choose two or three character traits and describe the events in the story that helped you to identify those traits.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

- Write a journal entry as if you were Cece. Include your feelings throughout the story and use at least 5 supporting details from *El Deafo*.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.B Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

**Social Studies:**

- Imagine Cece’s moves takes her more than 400 miles away from her home at the beginning of the story. Use a map of the United States to determine where she lived and one possible location for her move. Be sure the new location is more than 400 miles from the first location you choose. Plot both on the map and label them. Then, list and describe at least 3 points of interest that Cece may have seen on her road trip to her new home.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7 Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

**RELATED INTERNET SITES:**

Free Sign Language for Kids-This website provides many resources to use with children that focus on learning beginning, basic ASL.
http://kidcourses.com/sign-language-asl/

Kid’s Health:Friendship-This website provides resources to use with children that focus on how to be a good friend.

An interview with the author on NPR- This American Life
http://www.npr.org/2014/12/14/369599042/el-deafo-how-a-girl-turned-her-disability-into-a-superpower

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