**Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus**
Dusti Bowling

**GENRE:** Realistic fiction, humor

**BOOK SUMMARY**
Aven is an optimistic, humorous thirteen year old girl who is adopted and has no arms. When her family moves to a rundown theme park in Arizona, she becomes friends with a boy who barks at her due to his Tourette’s syndrome. Together they work at solving a mystery and learning more about their capabilities. She teaches him and readers that nothing can hold an individual back as long as they believe in themselves.

**BOOK TALK**
What do you get when you mix a rundown theme park, a girl with no arms, a boy with Tourette’s syndrome, and a mutant llama? An entertaining story that is anything but insignificant! Join Aven as she humorously solves the mystery of Stagecoach pass with the help of her friend Connor. She will keep you laughing as she reminds you to never doubt yourself.

**LINKS TO HELPFUL WEBSITES**
- Author Dusti Bowling: [www.dustibowling.com](http://www.dustibowling.com)
- TeachingBooks.net through INSPIRE: [www.teachingbooks.net/qlj3gwu](http://www.teachingbooks.net/qlj3gwu)

**MAKERSPACE ACTIVITY**
Design your own amusement park; observe habits of a tarantula

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**
1. Why is the title of the book significant?
2. What is a lesson you have learned from Aven?
3. Why is Aven’s blog significant? What does this teach us about her throughout the book?

**IF YOU ENJOYED THIS BOOK, YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE**
- **Realistic Fiction by same author:** *24 Hours in Nowhere* by Dusti Bowling
- **Realistic Fiction, protagonist with physical deformity:** *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- **Realistic Fiction with strong female lead:** *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

Resource page created by 2019-20 **YOUNG HOOSIER BOOK AWARD** committee member:
Cynthia Toth, High School & Middle School English teacher, Westville Schools, LaPorte, Indiana