

Discussion Guide for Jimmy: Toughest. Dog. Ever.

1. Why doesn't Jimmy want to be special? What does Lola think about Jimmy's "specialness?" What does Arrow mean by special at the end of the book?
2. Jimmy wants to be like the other dogs, he wants to play and run, and he wants a home. Which one do you think is most important to him? Why? Which one is the least important to him? Why do you think so?
3. Have you ever felt different in a good way from other people?
4. Have you ever felt different in a bad way from other people?
5. Jimmy can't talk, so how does he tell Lola he's afraid? Do you ever communicate with anyone like that?
6. How does Lola let Jimmy know he belongs?
7. How does Stan let Jimmy know he belongs? How are Stan and the man at the rescue shelter different from each other?
8. Why does Arrow not like Jimmy at first? What makes Arrow change his mind about Jimmy? When does that happen?
9. What do you think of when you describe someone as tough? What does Arrow mean by tough? What does Lola mean by tough (when she's telling Arrow about Jimmy in the hospital)?
10. Do you think falling into the pond made Jimmy tougher?
11. How do you think Jimmy feels when he runs for the first time? Have you

ever felt like that? When?

12. How does Arrow deal with the bully dogs (Tasha and Higgs)? How does Jimmy deal with the bully dogs?

13. Have you ever seen anyone picked on by a bully? Have you ever seen anyone stop someone from bullying? How do you deal with bullies?

14. What do you think would have happened if Stan and Lola had told Arrow to “be nice” to Jimmy? Would that have helped them be friends?

15. What does Jimmy learn in the story?

16. What does Arrow learn in the story?

17. Have you ever known anyone who was different? What do you think that person wants more than anything else in the world?