

Originals: Rebel With a Cause (Chapter 6) – Discussion Questions

General Questions:

Did you enjoy this chapter? Why or why not? Did it make you want to read more of the book?

The chapter starts with a quote: “We are not our brother’s keeper...in countless large and small ways we are our brother’s maker.” What does this quote mean to you and why do you think the author chose it to frame the chapter?

Did the statistics, charts and graphics in the chapter help you to understand the material? Did you find yourself turning back to them as you continued to read?

Are you a first-born or later-born child in your family? Did you agree with the author’s assessment of these birth order patterns in terms of kids being willing to take risks (like base stealing or engaging in high-risk sports) or embrace radical ideals?

In-Depth Questions:

The author uses the example of hospital workers being told to wash their hands to illustrate how people behave differently depending on the consequences presented to them. When told to wash their hands so patients wouldn’t get sick (instead of so they personally would not get sick), hospital workers washed 10% more often and used 45% more soap. Why do you think this was the case? Do you think this would be true if we used an example in a school? For example, do you think presenting the information below in one way or another would change the behavior of your classmates?

If you cheat on a test you are doing damage to your reputation and to your chance to truly learn valuable information.

If you cheat on a test you are doing damage to your entire school’s reputation and the chance for your friends to truly learn valuable material.

While emphasizing the importance of mentors and role models, the author notes that “in some cases, fictional characters may be even better role models” than actual people living in our worlds. Do you think this can be true? If yes, which characters in the books we’ve read do you think would make good role models for kids today? *Hint: look back at our chart to see how many of our protagonists have been age 15 or under. Also, wait to hear what the author told Raiareads about his role models!*

The author also states that “at its core, comedy is an act of rebellion” and that comedians tend to be more original and rebellious. Do you think this is true? Is comedy funnier the more the joke deviates from what the audience is expecting? Does this seem true when you think about your favorite comedians?

