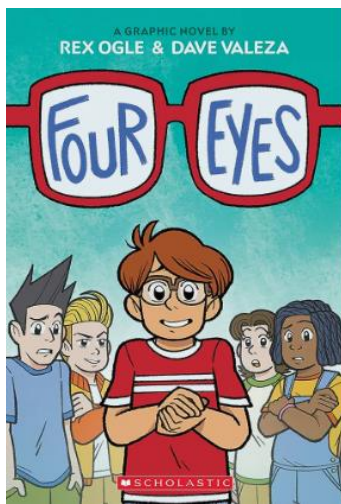


# Discussion Guide for *Four Eyes* (2023)

Written by Rex Ogle and illustrated by Dave Valeza

Discussion guide developed by Kayla Faje and Annika Olson for CU Boulder's Children Book Festival 2023, Open Education Resource, Creative Commons. Available [colorado.edu/event/bookfest](https://colorado.edu/event/bookfest)



## Summary

*Four Eyes* is a coming of age graphic novel that centers around a boy named Rex as he starts middle school. He comes from a family which represents the struggles and impacts of divorce and financial difficulties, and also faces bullying, and changes at home and in school. As Rex begins his transition to middle school, he discovers, much to his dismay, that he needs glasses. This is the end of the world for Rex... will he make it through sixth grade?

**Recommended Grade Levels:** 3rd - 7th grade

## Discussion Questions

Before reading:

1. The title of the book is "Four Eyes". What does that mean? Is that a kind term? What does it make you think the book will be about?
2. What do you notice about the cover? What do you think about the character's expressions?

During reading:

After part 1:

1. What's an example of something Rex struggles with that helps him realize he needs glasses?
  - a. Reread pages 30-31. How do the illustrations support the idea that Rex might need glasses?
2. How does Rex feel about getting glasses? Why? How can you tell?

After part 2:

3. Why did Rex's mom not want their grandmother to spoil them?
4. Rex begins gaining confidence in his glasses and other areas of his life. What are some of the events in the story that helped him gain this confidence?

After reading:

1. What conversation helps change Rex's perspective?
  - a. Reread pages 178 -180. What is different about these illustrations from the rest of the book? What do those differences tell you?
2. How does Rex feel about getting glasses? Why? How does Rex feel about his glasses by the end of the book?
3. Have you ever experienced a change in your life like Rex in the book? What was it and how did you react?
4. What were some of the things that helped Rex to grow and change throughout the book?
5. What else do you think that Rex's fear and discomfort around wearing glasses to school could be representative of?
  - a. Is this something that you've noticed within yourself or others?
6. Rex doesn't tell his mom about the D.C. trip. Why not?
  - a. Reread pages 214 - 215. What lesson does Rex learn about "fancy stuff" and family?
7. Rex's mother and grandmother both speak Spanish while Rex is still learning. Do you or your family members speak another language?
  - a. How does your communication reflect that?

## **Extension Activities**

1. Provide students with arts and crafts time to make glasses of their own. Create templates for the students to cut out paper glasses and give them time to decorate the glasses in a way that represents them. Use this as an opportunity to discuss how the things that set them apart are celebration worthy.
2. Have students try their hand at creating their own comic or graphic novel. Have them choose a school memory and create a memoir using the style of the book.