

## General discussion questions & activities

1. What is the central theme in the narrative, *It Couldn't Happen to Me*? How is this theme conveyed? (*Hint*- plot, characters, narrative).
2. Using the accident as your focus, write an article for a newspaper on the consequences of drink driving.
3. Did the author, Margaret Clark, weave opinion and fact statements into the narrative? Find examples of each.
4. Were there any illustrations, charts, graphs or diagrams that were important? Select two or three and show what you learned from them and explain why you believe each one is important.
5. Does the author, Margaret Clark or the illustrator, Bettina Guthridge try to persuade you in any way? How?
6. Drink driving, blood alcohol levels, risk taking and alcohol consumption are issues within the narrative. Could changes to the law have prevented this accident? Why or why not?
7. If you were employed as a critic, how would you respond to this text?
8. What attitude does the author have toward the subject of drink driving? What words or events illustrate this?
9. How would you serialise this narrative into a movie? Using any part of the story, construct a movie trailer or write one episode outlining the potential dangers of alcohol use.
10. What relation does the title have to the whole text? Can you think of another title? Justify the reason for your title.
11. Who is the protagonist? How important is this character to the text?
12. Does the story, unfolding from the use of different characters and different perspectives, suit the purpose and subject? How/why?
13. Is there conflict in this story? If so, how and when is it evident? What is the cause of the conflict?
14. How are the attitudes of different generations about alcohol reflected in the book? Justify your answer using quotes from the book.
15. Write a feature article for a newspaper titled 'it will never happen to me!' using information about alcohol as the focus.
16. A tragedy, such as the one in this narrative, can have a number of implications for families. Describe this using your understanding of the narrative.
17. Create a digital collage combining visuals and text to reflect the themes and issues of the story.
18. Compare and contrast any two characters from the novel. Present your findings in a graph form.
19. Do the characters seem real and believable? Can you relate to their predicaments? To what extent do they remind you of yourself or someone you know?
20. What did you find surprising about the facts introduced in this book? Why?
21. Does the author and illustrator present information in a way that is interesting and insightful, and if so, how do they achieve this? What might be another way of presenting this information?
22. If the author is writing on a debatable issue, does she give proper consideration to all sides the debate? Does he or she seem to have a bias? Explain.
23. How has the book increased your knowledge or awareness of alcohol and its potential harm?
24. What is the predominant point of view in this book, and who seems to be the focal character? Illustrate by citing a very brief passage from the book and showing how it confirms your opinion.
25. Does this novel have any significant shift in focus? What principles of focus seem to govern the novel?
26. 'Some young people drink because it makes them feel older, or because it gives them a certain image among friends'. Comment.
27. 'If Education is part of the answer for issues around alcohol, what is/are the other part/s? Explain.
28. Using specific events from the narrative, explain how irresponsibility can affect others and not just the individual.