

Good Friends Storybooks, Harold Thorpe's chapter books for young readers, are steeped in Wisconsin history, geography, and lore, making them a great choice for classroom or kids' book club discussions. The questions below are designed to engage kids with fun activities, and to help them to think and talk about what they're reading.

Kids' Book Club Questions: *Grayson's Garage*

1. In the summer, Grayson likes to play baseball. What is your favorite thing to do in the summer?
2. Grayson slows down as he runs behind Alex in a baseball game. Why does he do that? How is he being a good friend?
3. Alex has a disabled foot that makes it hard to run. Do you or someone you know have a disability that makes doing some things hard?
4. Alex doesn't win races, but he always tries his best. Think of a time when you didn't win, but tried your best.
5. Grayson's family moves to a new house. Have you ever moved to a new house? How did moving make you feel?
6. Grayson is reading the book *Treasure Island*. What is a good book you have read?
7. Grayson's parents build a new house, but wait one extra year to build a garage. Grayson is impatient; he wants a garage now. Have you ever had to wait for something? How did you feel?
8. Grayson's grandpa teaches him about the history of his town, Butte des Morts. They talk about things that happened long ago. Do you know the history of your town? Visit your local historical museum or talk with an older person who has lived there a long time.
9. In French, the name of Grayson's town, Butte des Morts, means *Hill of the Dead*. In Wisconsin, there are many places that have French names, and American Indian names. Using a map, find some of these names. Then, go to the library or go online to find out what the names mean.
10. The Lions Club raises money to help Alex's family pay for an operation. Kids can have fundraisers, too. Think of something you could raise money for. It could be to help someone or it could be for something kids in your town want, like a skate park. How much money do you need? What could you do to raise that amount? Bake sales and lemonade stands are two ideas. What else could you do?