

First Day, Hooray! Discussion Questions

1. Look at the front cover illustration of *First Day, Hooray!* What sort of mood is Ivy Green expressing? Is she excited? Angry? Fearful? How can you tell?
2. What time of year do you think it is? How can you tell?
3. Looking at the first page of the story, whose point of view is given? Do we see the entire town at one time or just one little part?
4. What do you think the word “aflutter” means? Does it make you feel like people are excited or uninterested? Why would they be excited about what is going to happen the next day?
5. How does Ivy feel about trying on shoes? How can you tell she’s excited? Is she worried about something, too? Why is she worried about missing the bus? What does Ivy’s mother tell her to make Ivy feel better?
6. What type of lunchbox does Ivy buy? What is she worried about now? What does Ivy do so that others will have something to eat for lunch? What does that tell you about the type of person Ivy is? Would you like to have a friend like Ivy (even if you don’t like raisins!)?
7. What is Miss Wheeler’s job? How can you tell that she is the bus driver? How does she feel about starting school? Does she think she is going to remember every stop on her bus route?
8. What is Mr. Handy’s job? What do you think he does as school custodian?
9. What is Mr. Masters’s job? How can you tell he is the principal? Does he think everything will be done in time for school to start?
10. Who is Ms. Bell? What is she doing to get ready for the first day of school?
11. When Ivy gets home from shopping, what is she concerned about? How do her parents react? Is she excited about the first day of school?
12. Do things finally calm down as the sun sets on the day before the first day of school? What does everyone do?
13. What will Ivy’s parents do while Ivy leaves for school? What will they do while she is at school? Is Ivy’s bedroom prepared for the first day of school? Why do you think so? What does she have laid out next to her bed?
14. Is Ms. Bell’s classroom ready for the first day of school? What preparations has Ms. Bell made?
15. Once the moon comes out, what does everyone do? How do they get ready for bed?
16. What happens once everyone is asleep? What kind of dreams do they have? Are they peaceful, restful dreams? Are they dreaming of their worst fears? What are they dreaming about?
17. When do the wild dreams disappear? What happens that makes them go away?
18. How does everyone get ready for the first day of school? What do they do? Does anyone make the mistakes they feared they would make?
19. What does Ivy do for her first day of school? Does she seem to enjoy the day or does she dislike it? How do you think her classmates feel about the first day of school? Why do you think they are having fun and enjoying Ms. Bell’s class?