

Carlie Sorosiak

I, Cosmo

Reading Group Notes

I, Cosmo is the story of one dog's attempt to save his family, become a star, and eat a lot of bacon. Cosmo's family is falling apart. And it's up to Cosmo to keep them together. He knows exactly what to do. There's only one problem. Cosmo is a golden retriever.

- Cosmo and Max have a very close relationship, find examples in the text where Cosmo reveals how he feels about Max. Why is this friendship so important throughout the book?
- It is gradually revealed that Max's parents are arguing a lot and the family may split up. Talk about how important families are and how Max must be feeling during this time.
- Cosmo can't talk to Max. Discuss the other ways he communicates with his friend. How powerful is this non-verbal communication? Think about times when we also communicate in ways other than talking. Why might we do this?
- Cosmo dreams of dancing. Talk about different hobbies you would love to try. What excites you about them? How can you go about making your dreams a reality?
- What interesting observations does Cosmo make about humans? What things do humans do that Cosmo can't understand? Make a list and see if you can add any other observations of your own.
- Go through the various family members in the story, including Cosmo, Max, Emmaline, Mum, Dad and Uncle Reggie. Find examples in the text that demonstrate each person's importance to the family. What is unique about each character? Think about the good things you bring to your family.
- Max and Cosmo begin to focus on the dance competition together. How important is this to them? Cosmo is getting old but tries his hardest. Can you think of a time you have done something for a friend, or a friend has done something for you? How did this make you feel?
- When the family takes a trip to the beach, Cosmo is hopeful that things will get better. Find language in this section that show how Cosmo feels about this trip.
- The trip to the beach doesn't go to plan and Max decides to run away one night. Why does he decide to do this? How does this end? What lessons does Max learn from this?
- At the end of the book, Cosmo's parents decide to get a divorce. This is a very sad moment in the story. Discuss how you feel about the ending to the book. Was the divorce as bad as everyone anticipated? How does Cosmo help the family through this time?
- What is the overall effect of writing from Cosmo's perspective? How does this change the feel of the story?
- Have a go at thinking from your pet's perspective, what things might they say if they could talk?



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