Living with Viola Book Discussion Questions

1. Rosena Fung, the author and illustrator of Living with Viola, says she experienced many of the same feelings as Livy. Can you relate to Livy? Have you ever felt alone and confused in a new situation?

2. Viola is described as “Livy’s anxiety brought to life” and appears as a separate, shadow version of Livy. How does Viola show up when Livy is feeling nervous and worried? What does Viola do when Livy feels joy and excitement?

3. Although she starts out the school year feeling alone, Livy soon befriends a group including Charlotte, Maddy, and Beth. How does Livy fit into this group at first? How do these friendships change over time?

4. Livy not only hides how she feels, but she also lies to her closest friends about some details of her life. Why does she do this? How do her friends react when they learn the truth?

5. Livy experiences panic attacks. How do the illustrations help us understand what she is feeling during these moments? How do the illustrations of her panic attacks make you feel?

6. When Livy is feeling down, spending time with her mother making dumplings lifts her spirits, and so does going to the library and drawing. Is there something you do that helps improve your mood and outlook?