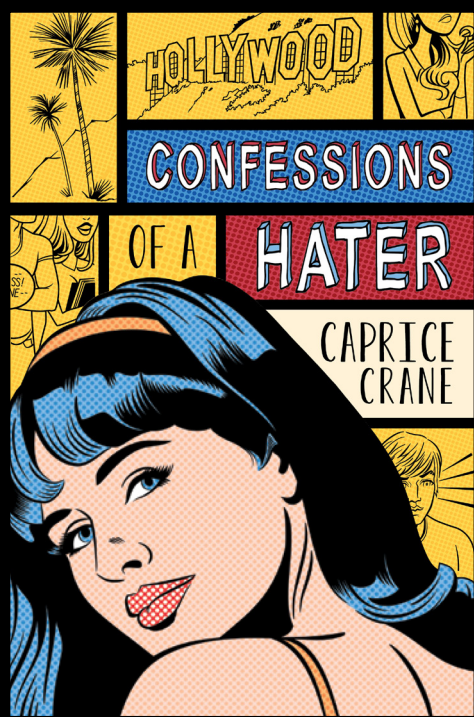


# Discussion Guide for CONFESSIONS OF A HATER



## PLOT SUMMARY:

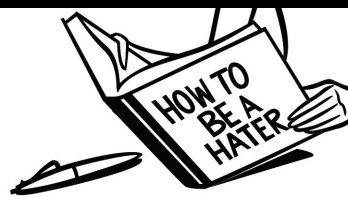
Hailey Harper has always felt invisible. Now her dad has a new job and the family is moving to Hollywood. Just what Hailey needs – starting a new high school.

As she's packing, Hailey finds a journal that belongs to her older sister, Noel, who is away at college. Called "How to be a Hater," it's full of info Hailey can really use. Has Hailey found the Bible of Coolness? Will it help her reinvent herself at her new school? Will her crush notice her? Will she and other Invisibles dethrone the popular mean girls? After all, they deserve it. Don't they?

Caprice Crane's funny – and deeply felt – observations about high school, bullies, popularity, friendship, and romance will leave teens thinking...and talking.

## CONFESSIONS OF A HATER by Caprice Crane

Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group  
For ages 13 and up • HC 9781250008466 • E-Book 9781250008473  
All editions available August 27, 2013



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why does Hailey want to reinvent herself at her new high school? If you were in her position, do you think you'd make the same choice? Why or why not?
2. Does Hailey's sister's journal, "How to be a Hater," help Hailey or not?
3. Are Skylar and her friends bullies? If so, what makes them bullies? If not, why not?
4. The author infuses humor into this story. Why do you think she made that choice? How would this book have been different without it?
5. Anya and Andy have a complicated history. Do you think they should be together? Why or why not?
6. Hailey and the Invisibles use the school broadcast system to spread an embarrassing rumor about Skylar. Hailey believes they got to Skylar before Skylar and her group could get to them. Do you agree? Is this the best solution for this situation? Why or why not?
7. Chris gets angry at Hailey for some of her actions. Do you think he should forgive her? Will their relationship be the same? Better? Worse?

**CAPRICE CRANE** is the author of several novels for adults, including *Stupid and Contagious*, *Forget About It*, *Family Affair*, and *With a Little Luck*. She was born in Hollywood, but don't hold that against her. She doesn't go wandering around with a tiny dog in her purse. Her mother, renowned film, television, and stage actress Tina Louise, is perhaps best known as Ginger Grant from the beloved sitcom *Gilligan's Island*. Her father is former talk-show host and Grammy winner Les Crane. Caprice has worked for MTV Networks as a writer and producer, and has been a music supervisor for film/TV. Her screenwriting credits include *90210* (the new version) and the movie *Love Wedding Marriage*, starring Mandy Moore and Kellan Lutz. She lives in Los Angeles and New York City. Visit her at [capricecrane.com](http://capricecrane.com).



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

8. Do you believe Hailey is a “hater” by the end of the book? How about Skylar? How about Hailey’s sister, Noel? Why or why not?
9. This novel takes place in California. Do you believe high school culture is the same all around the country? How does where you live influence the culture of your school?
10. If you could find a journal called “How to be a Hater,” do you think you’d use it the way Hailey does? Why or why not? How would you use it?



## ACTIVITIES:

1. Define “bully.” List ways that bullies can torment others (via the Internet, physically, emotionally, etc.).
2. Write a scene involving Hailey and the Invisibles and Skylar’s group (can be mix of female and male). Show ways in which each group’s actions could be interpreted as bullying.
3. Create a cartoon or comic strip about the ways bullying has affected you (as a victim, bystander, or even a bully).
4. Adults in your life, especially at school, encourage you to tell them about instances of bullying. Sometimes, this isn’t easy to do. Create a chart of Pros and Cons when it comes to talking about bullying with teachers and/or parents. Or, write a scene in which a student tells a teacher about bullying, and what happens as a result.
5. We are encouraged by others to “be yourself.” Do you believe you are “being yourself” in most situations in life – school, family, friends? Why or why not?
6. Instances of cyber-bullying are frequently in the news. Do you believe there should be rules about what you post online? What is okay? What isn’t okay? Write or improvise a scene in which the future-you is at a job interview, and the interviewer brings up something she or he found online, posted by you, about someone else. Do you believe this could really happen?



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