

# Holding Up the Universe

By Jennifer Niven

## Discuss

Talk through your thoughts.

- **Before reading:** we know that the story takes place in high school. What is your high school like? What do you anticipate high school to be like in this story? Discuss with a friend.
- **After reading:** Reflect on your thoughts about high school and the story from before you read. Were you correct in your guesses? How was the setting different than you anticipated? How was it the same? Create a Venn diagram to organize your thoughts and observations.

## Create

Make an experience of your own.

- Jennifer Niven does a great job showing us that everyone has challenges that we may not know anything about, everyone is climbing their own mountain. Think of your own mountains in your life. From old magazines or newspapers, create a collage that represents your "mountain" and how you climb up and overcome your mountain.
- Jack's prosopagnosia plays a big role in the book's storyline. Think about yourself. Aside from your face and your looks, what makes you, YOU? Create an art piece to represent who you are, without including your face.

## Imagine

Use your imagination to explore.

- Imagine you are either Jack or Libby; put yourself into their shoes. What is most challenging about your life? What is the most rewarding aspect of your life? Create two comic strips: one depicting a challenge of your life, and another depicting something positive in your life.

