



NOTHING CAN POSSIBLY GO WRONG – READING GROUP GUIDE



About the Book:

You wouldn't expect Nate and Charlie to be friends. Charlie's the laid-back captain of the basketball team, and Nate is the neurotic, scheming president of the robotics club. But they are friends, however unlikely—until Nate declares war on the cheerleaders. At stake is funding that will either cover a robotics competition or new cheerleading uniforms—but not both.

It's only going to get worse: after both parties are stripped of their funding on grounds of abominable misbehavior, Nate enrolls the club's robot in a battlebot competition in a desperate bid for prize money. Bad sportsmanship? Sure. Chainsaws? Why not. Running away from home on Thanksgiving to illicitly enter a televised robot death match? Nothing can possibly go wrong.

For Discussion:

There are a lot of cliques in this book: jocks, cheerleaders, and geeks. Are cliques inclusive or exclusive in your opinion? How do you feel about them?

When Nate tries to run for student body president, his friend tells him that he is “literally trying to win a popularity contest.” Do you agree that being voted for student body president is based on how popular you are? Could the answer be different in another school?

How is Charlie feeling when his mom tells him that she is remarrying? What does he mean when he says to her, “I thought you were supposed to be happy with *us*”?

Describe Charlie and Nate's friendship. They don't belong to the same clique, but they are still friends. What has bound them together all of these years?

Charlie has a difficult time communicating with his parents. How important is communication in a relationship? What happens when there is no communication between two people, like Charlie and his dad and mom?

The gang decides to skip Thanksgiving with their families in order to attend the Robot Rumble. Would you make the same decision? How understanding would your family be about it?

At the Robot Rumble, Team Opera Rock tells Charlie, “We don't like your kind here at the rumble.” What do they mean by that?

What are some stereotypes that are contradicted in *Nothing Can Possibly Go Wrong*?