Discussion guide for *Every Day*

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Book discussion for CSUN faculty and staff

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**Questions for students to consider:**

If you had the choice to inhabit another person’s body for one day, who would you choose, and why?

What responsibilities would you have for the day?

If you were in a different body each day, what kind of goals would you set for yourself?

How would you keep track of where and who you were each day?

What would you want A to know about you, if you were inhabited for the day?

How would you figure out the quirks or the person you were taking over for the day? What do you think A means when s/he “accesses” information about someone?

Do you think people should be able to choose if they can change bodies each day? Is it something that should be monitored or managed by the government or a public agency?

**Connecting A to campus resources:**

A is sometimes in the body of an unhappy or troubled person: **Counseling Center, also JADE, Blues Project**

Some of the people make questionable health choices (i.e. diet, drugs, etc.): **Klotz Center**

When A is chased by Nathan and the minister, s/he searches for stories about the issue (also the reverend’s blog): **Oviatt Library and information literacy**

A has strong intra- and interpersonal skills: how might s/he think about potential careers and work? **Career Center**

A never knows how much money is available for food and entertainment: **Financial Aid/Scholarships**

A can sometimes travel to exotic locales: **Study Abroad**

A needs to try out different activities for the day (sports, clubs, etc): **Matador Involvement Center**

**Every Day Bingo**

For each character that A inhabits, cross out a square.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Low self-esteem | Drugs | Obese | Popular | Soccer player |
| Musician | Church-going | Alcoholic | Loyal friend | Depressed/suicidal |
| Has allergies | Mean girl | Actor | Transgender | Homeschooled |
| Loves music | Gay | Diabetic | Football player | Bilingual |
| Runner | Beautiful | Cheerleader | Loves computers | Vegetarian |

Is there any crossover between boxes? Does each character have only one attribute? Do the characters have anything in common? Are their lives changed having been crossed with A?

Review from *Booklist*, a trade publication for librarians.

Cart, Michael. "Every day." *Booklist* 1 July 2012: 55. *General OneFile*. Web. 11 Mar. 2015.

A (his only name) has a secret. Each morning he wakes up in a different body and life. Sometimes he is a boy, sometimes a girl; sometimes he is gay, sometimes straight; sometimes he is iii, more often well. The only unchanging facts are that he is always 16, and it is a different persona he "borrows" each day. It has always been this way for him, though he doesn't know why it should be. He does know that it is imperative that he do nothing to change his host's life, until he meets Rhiannon and, for the first time, falls in love. And then all bets are off. Levithan has created an irresistible premise that is sure to captivate readers. While the story requires a willing suspension of disbelief, the plot is so compelling that readers will be quick to comply. Aside from his premise, Levithan has done an extraordinary job of creating more than 30 characters, each one a distinct individual and each one offering fresh insights into A's character. Those familiar with Levithan's earlier work will not be a bit surprised to learn that his latest is beautifully written (lips are "gates of desire"; "sadness turns our features to clay, not porcelain"). All these elements work together to make a book that is a study in style, an exercise in imagination, and an opportunity for readers themselves to occupy another life, that of A himself.--Michael Cart

HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Levithan is one of the giants of YA literature, but lest anyone forget, there's a robust marketing campaign backing up his latest effort.

Grammar roundup: this book is a great opportunity to discuss the difference between **every day** and **everyday**. The samples below show what you might ask students to produce on a 3x5 card to learn these or other words and definitions. In this case, inserting the word “single” between “every” and “day” offers a simple way to test whether you want “every day” with a space, or “everyday” with no space. (Having students draw a simple picture to illustrate each word may further help them cement their definitions.)

If you are a grammar enthusiast, kick it up a notch by also discussing less vs. fewer and other everyday errors that many people make.



Borrowed from <http://annie-perry.com/2012/03/14/the-grammar-series-difference-between-every-day-and-everyday/> by CSUN faculty member Lindsay Hansen.

Cheryl Spector adds: For more on using 3x5 cards to acquire new vocabulary, see “Vocabulary Strategy Steps,” Appendix D of *Teaching Unprepared Students: Strategies for Promoting Success and Retention in Higher Education* by Kathleen Gabriel. Sterling, Virginia: Stylus, 2008.