



## Ella at Eden: New Girl

By Laura Sieveking

Ella is nervous at first about leaving her family to remain at boarding school.

- Have you ever been away from home for an extended length of time – to visit a relative or friend, to attend camp, or an away school or recreational program? How did you feel at first?
- If you were to go away, what do you think you'd miss the most about your home?

Have you read any other books set in a boarding school? In what ways were those schools like Eden College? How were they different?

*New Girl* includes a map of Eden College and of the Junior Dorms. Draw a map of your school and one of your home.

Ella tells us that her Nanna Kate's advice to never judge a book by its cover means to not assume you know all about someone just from your first meeting.

- Have you ever made that kind of assumption upon first meeting someone, only to find later how wrong you were?
- How does Ella's initial idea about Violet change by the end of the book?
- "Things aren't always what they seem" is one of the primary themes of this book. What other examples can you find of this in the story?

Ella introduces some of her favorite words to the reader. Make a list of these words, then see how many you can use in a story or essay.

Which character – other than Ella – is your favorite in *New Girl*? Why?

Violet has juvenile (Type 1) diabetes. Do you know anyone who also has this condition? What can you learn about it? In what ways can friends support someone who has it?

Imagine you are a student at Eden College. What is your favorite thing about your school? What is your least favorite thing?