Summary: Annabelle has a five mile rule: She must keep her friends from coming within five miles of her home. That's because Annabelle's mom is a hoarder. Their house is full of stuff: canned goods, broken toys, old newspapers...it's everywhere except for Annabelle's spotless room. Annabelle can't let anyone realize that her mom is crazy. They'll make fun of her, or feel sorry for her, or try to help. But when the newspaper piles come crashing down on her sister's head one morning, it kicks off an epic fight between her parents that ends with her dad taking off and her fix-it-all grandmother stepping in. As Annabelle realizes how bad things have gotten, while trying to navigate her first crush and stay sane herself, she's forced to come to terms with the fact that she can't keep all her secrets to herself. Maybe she can't just throw her mom's things out; maybe she has to let some people in.

Discussion Questions:
1. Why does Annabelle have the five-mile rule? How does that rule affect her friendships and her family?
2. Annabelle's father leaves his children alone with their mother for the summer. Was this a courageous choice or a cowardly choice? Why or why not?
3. Annabelle's grandmother arrives to "fix" her mother, but can you "fix" a problem like hoarding in one visit? How does Annabelle’s grandmother's visit affect her mother's hoarding?
4. Annabelle keeps her room extremely tidy to counteract her mother's hoarding. How does the hoarding affect her sister? Her brother? Her father?
5. Is Annabelle's home a safe environment? Why or why not? What should happen to keep her and her siblings safe?

Further Resources:
Interview with the author: https://dar.to/338HDxe
Overview of Hoarding: https://dar.to/2Dam4BT

Activities
1. Host a family game night with your family and your friends’ families. Play board games, card games, or even outdoor games. Just have fun!
2. Annabelle writes a short play about family game night. Create a short play, make props and costumes, and act it out!