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BOOK CLUB GUIDE Discussion Questions

★ Chapter 1 - Why is Kenzie so excited to go to middle school? How do you think it will be different from the lifestyle she's used to?

★ Chapter 2 - Kenzie meets Ashia, who makes her feel more comfortable at the new school. What are some ways you could help a new student feel welcome?

★ Chapter 3 - Do you think Kenzie should have told Ashia the truth right from the start? Why do you think she didn't?

★ Chapter 4 - Why was it important to Kenzie to get feedback from someone other than her dad?

★ Chapter 5 - Kenzie looks through her old yearbook and decides to touch base with friends from her old school. Why do you think she's missing them now when she's in a school full of kids?

Kenzie decides to try some activities at her new middle school. Based on what you know about her character, why are book club and a poetry contest a good fit for her?

★ Chapter 6 - At the end of Chapter 6, Kenzie does something totally out of character. Why does she feel like she can be so bold and brave?

Kenzie decides to run for student council, even though she knows she can't really do the job. Why is doing this for Ashia so important to her?

★ Chapter 7 - Kenzie tries to tell Ashia she can't be on student council, but does she try hard enough? Why or why not?

★ Chapter 8 - Kenzie wants to tell her dad about everything she's doing, but feels she can't. Why do you think she chooses not to tell him? What would happen if she did?

★ Chapter 9 - Kenzie says she feels like she's living two different lives. What do you think she means by that? How are they different?

★ Chapter 10 - One way that Kenzie calms herself down before her solo is by listening to music. What are some other ways to calm yourself down when you're nervous?

What do you think Kenzie was feeling when she was up on stage? What will she do now?

★ Chapter 11 - In Chapter 11, Kenzie says, “But then I’ll always be the girl who ran offstage and couldn’t do it.” Why is it important to her not to be that girl? What does staying in the musical and pushing forward help her prove to herself?

In Chapter 11, Kenzie says she’s “experiencing what it’s like to just be a girl in middle school.” What has she learned about middle school life so far?

★ Chapter 12 - Kenzie is still fighting her stage fright when she finds out she has to fill in for Ashia. Why do you think she keeps pushing herself out of her comfort zone?



★ Chapter 13 - When it’s time to vote, why is Kenzie struggling with what she should do? Why does she decide to vote for Tate?

★ Chapter 14 - Kenzie has been able to continue participating in activities without telling anyone she’s leaving. But when she’s asked a direct question, she must make a decision. Is she thinking ahead or only thinking of the present?

★ Chapter 15 - The only person Kenzie has been able to confide in is Mayleen. Why is Mayleen a “safe” choice for Kenzie’s secret?

★ Chapter 16 - When Kenzie finally tells Ashia that she’s leaving, she says, “Nobody will even care.” Do you think Ashia’s response makes her see things from a different viewpoint?

★ Chapter 17 - Did it surprise you that Bren didn’t care what Kenzie’s secret was? Why or why not?

In Chapter 17, Kenzie has a heart-to-heart with her dad. What are some clues from throughout the story that they’re very close?

★ Chapter 18 - In Chapter 18, Kenzie tries writing an apology letter and finally admits to herself that what she did was wrong. What did you think of her letter? How might you have felt if you received it?

★ Chapter 19 - Why do you think Mayleen isn’t upset with Kenzie? How does her being in a different city make her an easier person to confide in?

★ Chapter 20 - The teachers that Kenzie interacts with aren’t mad, but they’re also not all that supportive. How do you think a teacher should react in this situation?

★ Chapter 21 - Principal Kumar suggests that Kenzie shouldn’t attend book club anymore. Why do you think that one stings the most?

★ Chapter 22 - Kenzie has a great time with her friends on her birthday weekend and decides she's ready to leave and let it all go. How does having friends to talk it out with help her make this decision?

★ Chapter 23 - Tate's response to Kenzie not telling them she was leaving is very different from the way Bren responds. Do their reactions fit their characters? Why or why not?

Kenzie has a run-in with Shelby and decides she's not going to let Shelby treat her like that. Why does it take courage to stand up to someone who treats you badly?

★ Chapter 24 - When Dad tells Kenzie the news, the first thing she wants to do is go see Ashia. Why do you think she feels that way?

Things aren't instantly fixed with Ashia, but the girls seem to be headed in a better direction. How do you think Ashia is feeling right now?

★ Chapter 25 - Kenzie decides to join the yearbook team. Why is it important to her to find new activities?

★ Chapter 26 - In Chapter 26, Kenzie makes a pros and cons list and says, "it's not about the *number* of things on each side; it's about the things on each side that can't be measured by numbers." What does she mean by this?

Kenzie has a big choice to make. Why do you think she's struggling with what to do?

★ Chapter 27 - One of the things that makes Kenzie stop and think about her decision is when Ashia and her friends invite Kenzie to a movie. We know Kenzie goes to see movies when she's on the road, but why is this invitation so different?

★ Chapter 28 - Kenzie struggles with making the right choice. What is it that finally helps her decide?

★ Chapter 29 - Kenzie says that Bren's opinion is the last piece of the puzzle. Why is it so important to her that Bren is happy she's staying?

★ Chapter 30 - At the end of the story, Kenzie has come to realize what "home" really means to her. What is it that makes a place a home?



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