

A Year Without Autumn by Liz Kessler

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there a character in the story that you admire? If so what is it about him/her that you admire?
2. Pretend your family had a vacation at the time-share. If you got to know Autumn and Jenni, which of them would you make friends with first and why?
3. Please describe how Autumn and Jenni's families are different. Which one would you be more comfortable visiting and why?
4. How would you describe Jenni and Autumn's friendship? What makes it work?
5. Describe the girls' relationships with their little brothers. Did these relationships seem realistic to you? Why or why not?
6. Did anything in the story make you laugh?
7. At the bottom of page 29, Jenni thinks about how great it would be to have a glimpse of what the future holds, just so she'd know. Would you like to see a little glimpse of your future? If so, what age would you like to look at?
8. Please read (to yourself or out loud) the last two paragraphs on page 34. Have you ever wondered about that? What do you think about it?
9. Please read (to yourself or out loud) the paragraph on page 60 that begins with "Normality." What did you think when you read that paragraph? Was the author giving you a clue?
10. In what ways did Autumn and her family change after Mikey went into a coma?
11. Imagine what it would be like to be invisible. Would you like to try it for an hour or a day? What would you do? Now read (to yourself or out loud) the paragraph on page 93 that begins with the word "invisible." How is it different for Jenni?
12. Was there a character who showed courage? If so, please tell us about it.
13. Jenni's mom thinks three is the perfect number of children because there are three seats in the back of her car. Do you agree with Jenni's mother? What do you think is the perfect number of kids?
14. Please read the last two paragraphs on page 130 to yourself or out loud. How would you answer Jenni's question if you had been with her at that point in the story?
15. On page 147 Jenni gets into the old elevator and presses the #3 button. Did you think this was a good idea? If not, what should she have done at this point in the story?
16. When it happened to Mrs. Smith, she had been reading a book about a girl who traveled back in time. If you could travel forward or backward in time, when and where would you go and what would you do there?
17. Did the author write this book to entertain us or to teach us or both? If it was to teach us, then what did you learn?
18. Pretend you are Jenni and that Autumn just told you her words from the last line of page 212 to the end of the first paragraph on page 213. What would you think? What would you say?