



Diary of a Teenage Fairy Godmother

Kathleen Baldwin
AND
Andrea Sisco



DISCUSSION GUIDE

PICK AND CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS YOU'D LIKE TO EXPLORE IN YOUR GROUP.

SOME KIND OF MAGIC

- Jess wielded the wand. Do you think she now has powers beyond her normal human abilities?
- Jess was extraordinary before she met Lilliana, she's extremely intelligent. But Cai and Maggie have gifts, too. What would you say Maggie's unique ability is?
- In what way is Cai gifted?
- At the end of the book there appears to be something magical about Jake. What do you suspect it is?
- Does Mark have any special talents?
- When did you begin to suspect Lilliana had a magical ability over water and why?
- All of us possess special gifts or abilities that make us a little bit different from others, a little bit extraordinary, a little bit magic. You possess unique and unusual gifts. What are your *magical* abilities?



VISUAL ARTS EXERCISE:

Try cutting out pictures from magazines and creating a collage that explores and illustrates your unique ability or gift.

If you didn't instantly recognize your gifts, that's okay. Ponder it for awhile. Take an inventory of your qualities, even ones you may not view as assets. Consider your unique manner of viewing the world; the way you think, talk, hear, and feel.

For example: Maggie's dyslexia gave rise to her marvelous ability to discern truth. You may have an exceptional sense of smell, and consequently taste more nuances in foods. Some people see more colors. Some see less. In World War II colorblind soldiers were often chosen as scouts because their colorblindness helped them almost magically spot camouflaged bunkers and tanks.

- Most gifts/talents/special abilities arrive in our toolbox as two-edged swords. There is an upside and a downside. What is the upside and downside of your gift?
- Understanding your unique abilities changes things. What changed when Lilliana finally understood who she was and her true abilities?
- How does knowing and using your ability affect your life? How does your gift or talent change the lives of those around you?

GOOD GRIEF

- In the beginning of the book Jess is angry about having lost her brother. Why is she angry instead of sad? Why do Jess and Jake feel so differently?
- How do you think Jess's grieving process is complicated by her parents' withdrawal?
- Lilliana appears to have dealt with the loss of her mother better than Jess did the loss of her brother. Do you think this is really true? Why, or why not?
- Lilliana faced other profound losses in this story. What are they?
- How do you think Lilliana felt when her mentor betrayed her?
- Have you ever had a friend betray you? How did you get over the shock and hurt? What did you do to grieve the loss of the relationship?



VISUAL ARTS EXERCISE:

Free drawing a picture of our grief can be therapeutic. Without thinking about it too much, allow aspects of the lost relationship come out in a drawing. Expressing feelings through symbols, colors, and images sometimes helps us face our sadness and move on to the acceptance stage of grief.

LOVE – RISK vs REWARD

- Lilliana decides she is willing to risk loving Jake even though they probably don't have a future. What do you think changed her mind?
- What is actually at risk when we choose to love?
- The truth is people will get hurt when they choose to love, even if the person they choose to love is simply a friend. Hurt is inevitable in any relationship. One cannot dance without stepping on toes.
So, we ask ourselves, is emotional intimacy worth the risk?
- Why? What makes love worth the risk to you?

VISUAL ARTS EXERCISE:

Many of the creatures in Ayre are actual mythical creatures pulled straight from ancient lore and myths. The Peccaveryn and Firebug are exceptions.

One can't help but notice that mythical creatures are invented from combining characteristics of one animal with another. The persian hare, for instance, has a unicorn type horn, and the sharp teeth and attack skills of a lion. If you were to invent a mythical creature what traits would you combine?



Kathleen would love to see your drawings and if you give permission she'd be delighted to post them on her website. Just email her a digital copy of your art.

THANK YOU FOR SELECTING
DIARY OF A TEENAGE FAIRY GODMOTHER
FOR YOUR BOOKCLUB OR READING GROUP.
WE HOPE YOU HAD A LIVELY DISCUSSION.

If you have any questions for the authors, or would like Kathleen to chat with your book group via SKYPE contact her at: **KATHLEEN@KATHLEENBALDWIN.COM**