

THIS ONE SUMMER – READING GROUP GUIDE



About the Book:

Every summer, Rose goes with her mom and dad to a lake house in Awago Beach, and Rose's friend Windy is always there, too. But this summer is different. Rose's mom and dad won't stop fighting, and Rose and Windy find themselves in the middle of a teenage soap drama. This heartbreaking and ultimately hopeful story is about a girl on the cusp of her teen age—a story of renewal and revelation.

For Discussion:

This One Summer is a graphic novel, a story told in words and pictures. How do you think this story would be told differently if it was a novel, with only words? How would it be different if it was a movie, with just pictures?

Rose is very quick to judge both of the female characters around her own age, Windy and Jenny. Why do you think that is? Have you ever been overly critical of your friends or peers, and how did that make you feel?

Rose and Windy are obsessed with the teenage drama unfolding around them. Is there a difference in the way they view adulthood and the reality of being an adult? Do they come to recognize this gap by the end of the graphic novel?

Rose continues to admire Dunc even after she learns that he probably is the father of Jenny's unborn baby, but refuses to help or support her. Have you ever liked someone despite their questionable decisions, and how has this admiration affected the way you judged that person?

Rose's mom, Alice, refuses to engage, participate, and generally interact with her friends and family. What would you do if one of your family members behaved this way, how would you interact with them?

What do you think about Rose's behavior towards her mother throughout the book? What would you do if one of your own family members was making serious life choices without your input, or that you didn't agree with?

How do Rose and Windy each view adoption? What are the differences in their opinions and why do they each feel the way they do?

This One Summer is about a single summer at a very transitional moment of life for Rose. Do you think that when she comes back to Awago Beach next summer, she'll have the same approach to her life and her surroundings?