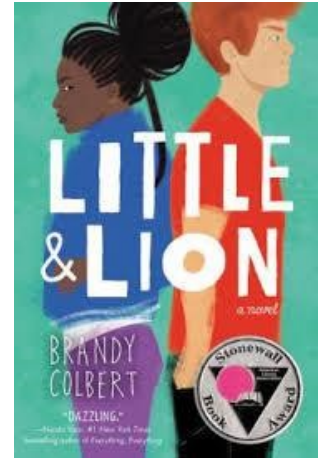


Discussion Guide

Little and Lion

by Brandy Colbert

1. Geography plays a role in the narrative, specifically the differences between living in Massachusetts and California. How would the story differ if Suzette were from Massachusetts and went to boarding school in California? How does geography or a sense of place influence the story?
2. Trust is another theme. How does Little build trust? Break it? Is trust a shifting virtue or is its nature in this book reflective of Little's age?
3. Secrets are closely associated with trust. Why do you think Little starts her relationship with Lion by keeping secret the truth of their first encounter? How do secrets help and/or hurt Little in her young life?
4. Dee Dee has "known since she was 8 years old" that she is a lesbian while Little struggles with her sexuality. How are these two best friends similar yet also different in their approach to life and to who they are?
5. Little is sent to boarding school because of Lion's bipolar diagnosis. Why do you think her parents made this decision?
6. How is this story shaped by the races, ethnicities and religion of Little's family?
7. In what ways does Little reconcile her need to help Lion by sharing his secret with her fierce loyalty to him?
8. What is the significance of Little's given name? Why hasn't her mother shared its origins with her?
9. What happens when Little tells her mom she thinks she's bisexual? Does her mom's reaction ring true? Why or why not?
10. Little decides to return to Dinsmore in order to be "her true self" there. Why is this important?



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