



Sammy Keyes & the Runaway Elf

Discussion Guide for Sammy Keyes #4

- 1) Sammy always seems to be in the middle of a mess. She'd say she's just at the wrong place at the right time. Do you agree? Or do you think she makes some messes for herself?
- 2) Mrs. Landvogt has been manipulating people for years. Do you think it was inevitable that someone tried to get back at her?
- 3) In the end, did you feel more sympathetic to the dog owner or the dognappers? Or neither?
- 4) Sammy finds out more about Mrs. Graybill and Officer Borsch in this book. How does knowing more about their past lives help her understand them both better?
- 5) Think about all the secrets in this story. The Kris Kringle kind of secrets can be fun. But other secrets turn out to be toxic. What's the difference between them? Can you always tell a fun secret from a dangerous one?
- 6) Sammy decides to destroy Mrs. Landvogt's book, though she does save a few pages. Was that the right thing to do? What would you have done?
- 7) Normally Sammy wouldn't rat someone out to Officer Borsch. But what if that someone is Heather? Do you think Sammy was right to set Heather up?
- 8) Mrs. Graybill is desperate for Sammy to forgive her. Why does it mean so much to her? And how does the idea of forgiveness help Sammy think differently about her mom?

