



Sammy Keyes & the Kiss Goodbye

Discussion Guide for Sammy Keyes #18

(Series Conclusion)

- 1) Sammy feels like an outsider at the beginning of seventh grade in *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*. But now, at the end of eighth grade, when she's in trouble, loads of people are there to help. Do you think that would surprise Sammy? Did it surprise you?
- 2) Do you think Sammy has changed over the past two years? In what ways?
- 3) And how have all the people around her evolved? Think of Grams and Hudson, Marissa and Heather. And what about Lady Lana—has she grown too?
- 4) How is Sammy responsible for changing other people's lives? Think about Holly. And Officer Borsch. What about you? Has Sammy changed your life in any way?
- 5) Over the course of the series, Sammy helps a lots of people. Which characters are your favorites? Gina the fortune teller? Lucinda and her pet pig? Justice Jack?
- 6) Sammy's made new friends, but she's also made a few enemies. Who are your favorite bad guys?
- 7) Do you have a favorite book Sammy Keyes book? Why that one? Which book was funniest? Scariest? Most mysterious? Most romantic? If you could pick one book in the series to be in alongside Sammy, which would it be, and which character would you like to be?



- 8) Sammy and Marissa's friendship gets tested a few times, but they always seem to find a way to work it out. What makes them such good friends?
- 9) Casey seems to like Sammy as soon as he meets her. But Sammy's a little slower to admit that she might like him. Did you like how their relationship evolved over many books? What were your three favorite Sammy and Casey moments?
- 10) On the other hand, Heather seems to loathe Sammy as soon as she meets her! These two do terrible things to each other. Do you have a favorite Heather moment? Which payback felt the most satisfying to you?
- 11) Wendelin Van Draanen wrote this final book in the series in a very different way than the rest. Since Sammy's unconscious, she can't tell her own story! So here Wendelin herself becomes the narrator. Did you like seeing all the characters Sammy's described through this new lens? Do you think this was a good way to say goodbye?
- 12) This story reminds us just how many people's lives Sammy has impacted over the course of two years. Think of your own life. Has someone new come into your life and made a difference? Do you think you've made a difference in someone else's life?
- 13) Are there ways you are like Sammy? Would you like to be her? Or to have her as a friend?
- 14) What's the thing you will remember most about the Sammy Keyes series?
- 15) Sometimes we're in such a hurry to find out what happens, that we miss the little things on a quick read through a book. Now that you've read them all of the Sammy Keyes books, do you think you would enjoy them in a new way by reading them again? If so, where would you want to start? Back at the beginning with Sammy's first wave, or...?

