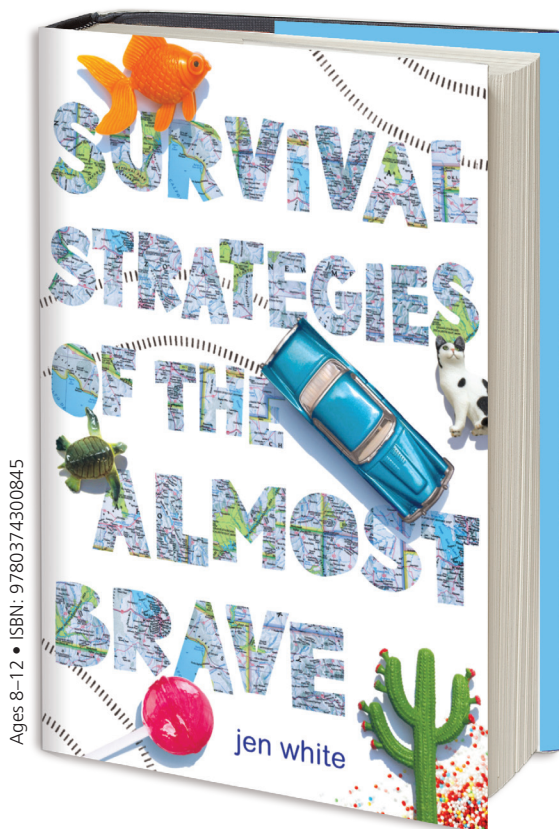




# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF THE ALMOST BRAVE



## Discussion Questions:

1. The first survival strategy in the book is "Fake It." In what ways does Liberty "fake it" throughout the course of the book? Does she ultimately learn that "faking it" is a good thing or a bad thing?
2. Why is Liberty afraid to ask for help when she realizes their father has left her and Billie at the gas station?
3. Throughout the book, Liberty tries very hard to make good choices, but she doesn't always succeed. Give an example of a time when Liberty thinks she is doing the right thing, but her choice has negative consequences.
4. Liberty steals the Lavender Lady's money because she feels she and Billie really need it. Do you think it is always wrong to steal, or is theft sometimes justified?
5. Liberty and Billie meet several people in the days after their father leaves them at the gas station. Of the people they meet, who do you think they might have trusted to share what really happened to them?
6. When Liberty and Billie first meet Star Wars Kid, Liberty doesn't seem to like him. But in the end, she defends him against his older brother. Why do you think she defends Star Wars Kid?
7. Why do you think Liberty likes writing down lists and animal facts in her notebook? Have you ever kept a notebook of facts and ideas like Liberty does?
8. At first, Liberty and Billie think Tattoo Guy is scary, but realizing that he has a cat named Mr. Sprinkles makes them think he's not such a tough guy after all. Why do you think hearing Tattoo Guy talk to Mr. Sprinkles makes Liberty and Billie feel less afraid of him?
9. *Survival Strategies of the Almost Brave* author Jen White got the idea for the book because, when she was a child, she and her sister were accidentally left behind at a gas station. Has anything happened in your past that gives you an idea for a story or book you might want to write one day?
10. Pick a survival strategy from the book and write a story about someone—or yourself—using that strategy to make it through a challenging situation. For example, if you choose #37: HELP YOURSELF, you will write about a character—or yourself—helping him or herself through a tough time.
11. When Liberty and Billie go to the hospital, Liberty is dehydrated but Billie is not. Why do you think Liberty makes sure Billie drinks water but then doesn't drink enough herself?
12. When Liberty faces her father at the end of the book, he asks if she can ever forgive him, and she says, "Maybe." Do you think Liberty will ever forgive her father? Why or why not?
13. Liberty and Billie's dad is clearly feeling overwhelmed when he leaves them at the gas station, but abandoning them is not the right thing to do. What else could he have done to get help in caring for his daughters?
14. How do you think Liberty grows and changes over the course of the book? What does she learn about herself, and about others?
15. Throughout the book, Liberty and Billie deal with some unlucky circumstances—their mom's death, their father's abandonment. But in the end, Liberty realizes she and Billie were also lucky in certain ways. In what ways do you think they were lucky?
16. At the end of the book, Liberty and Billie go to live with Julie, but it is uncertain whether this arrangement will be permanent. Do you think it will be? Why or why not?
17. Why do you think Liberty wants to go to Four Corners with Billie and Julie? How does she feel when she gets there?