



1. Kara's mom and dad each have very different reactions to her injury when she returns home from the hospital. How does each parent react, and what does each reaction tell you about that parent's feelings and his/her relationship with Kara?

2. Kara is adamant about not being seen as an inspiration by her peers, and even snaps at her classmate Maria Luna who tells Kara that she is an inspiration. Why do you think this perception upsets Kara so much? Can you understand her point of view?

3. Dance is the one part of her life that Kara feels truly defines her, and she feels lost when her injury keeps her from dancing. What is the part of your life that you feel truly defines you? How do you think you would react if it was somehow taken from you the way dance is taken from Kara? How would you adapt?

4. Jack clearly still had feelings for Kara, even while she was dating Curt. After her accident, he is one of the only people who stays by her side and supports her unconditionally. If Kara hadn't been in her accident, what do you think would have happened with her relationship with Curt? Her friendship with Jack?

5. When Amanda asks Kara what she expects to get from physical therapy, Kara tells her, "I want to walk again." How do you feel about Kara's determination to get back the use of her legs, even though her doctors have told her it will never happen? Do you think that working toward this goal is a positive use of her energy?

Discussion Questions



6. Kara's life changes in big and small ways once she starts using a wheelchair. Were you surprised by all of the everyday things that suddenly became obstacles for Kara? Which obstacle was the most surprising?

7. Kara struggles with the word "normal." On one hand, she wants to blend in and be treated like every other student at her school, but on the other hand, she wants people to be aware of the fact that she is different now and be understanding of those differences. What do you think it means to be "normal?" What do you think that Kara really wants from the people in her life? Do you want to be treated like you are "normal?"

8. When Jenny Roy tells Kara, "Just because you're confined to a wheelchair...", Kara explains that "the wheelchair is what keeps me from being confined somewhere. If I didn't have it, I would be confined to my house." Why do you think this distinction in wording is so important to Kara? What does it reveal about Kara's state of mind and her attitude toward her disability? Are there any parts of your life where the wording makes a difference, like it does for Kara?

9. When Kara is recovering from her accident, she finds support not only from Jack and Amanda, but from other surprising sources as well - Ana, the younger girl she meets in physical therapy, Baker, her classmate who stands up for her, and even the people on the internet message boards she frequents. Who has been there for you in your times of need? Have you ever been surprised by the people who have stuck by you and the people who, like Curt, were absent and less-than-supportive when you really needed them?

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