



1. Bash allows his friend to drive while intoxicated. How do you think things would've been different if Kyle allowed Bash to drive instead?
2. Birdie says she doesn't believe in love. How do you think her parents' relationship has shaped her views? Do you think she wants to end up like them or not?
3. How has Birdie's mom, Bess, influenced Birdie's decision to keep her part in Benny's accident a secret? How is Birdie's relationship with her mother different than what she has with her father? What about with Sarge?
4. Why does Bash try to keep his distance from Birdie at the skating rink? Do you think he is doing the right thing? How do you think Birdie and Bash's relationship would have changed if there had been no accident?
5. Kyle claims to be Bash's friend. Do you think he is? How has Bash been a better friend to Kyle?
6. Bash's mother was an immigrant from Brazil, escaping with only the clothes on her back. How do you think her sacrifices affected his decisions regarding Kyle? If Camilla hadn't died, do you think Bash's choices to protect Kyle would've changed?
7. Tragedy can often rip families apart or bring them closer. Which do you think the Paxton's fall into? How do you know?
8. Birdie is consistent in wanting to attend school and work, even through tragedy. Why do you think this is?
9. What's the importance of drawing bears to Bash? What about taking photos of roadkill to Birdie?

Discussion Questions



10. The author often connects The Collision Theory — a theory that says for a reaction to occur, the reactants must collide with each other — to Birdie's meeting of Bash. What parallels do you think are drawn, if any, to love and theories of fate?
11. How do you think Nan's death inspires Birdie's ideologies on death and fate?
12. As sisters, Birdie and Brynn have a complicated relationship. How do you think Birdie should've reacted to Brynn all the times she acted out?
13. Was Bash right to keep his involvement a secret from Birdie, knowing it would risk any relationship or friendship they may ever have? Was Birdie right to forgive Bash for keeping this secret from her?
14. Why do you think Sarge's influence alters Birdie's decision to stay away from Bash?
15. Do you think Birdie was right to run after Bash in the hospital parking lot? Why or why not? How would you have ended their story?