



1. Were you a fan of the original *Grease* movie or musical before you read *Only Mostly Devastated*? How do you think the ways the author has changed the story have affected its themes?
2. At the beginning, Ollie says that “Disney had been lying to [him] . . . about Happily Ever Afters,” but he does get his own complex happy ending through a lot of communication and compromise. What do you think? Are HEAs possible, or are they just for fairy tales?
3. On page 28 Juliette changes in front of Ollie even though she met him that same day, and on page 85 she doesn’t think to include him when she generalizes that all boys are a “different species” with “[smaller] brains.” What do you think of how she treats Ollie in these moments? Are they microaggressions, because he’s a gay teen boy? What does it say about Jill that her profession is so tied with her son’s death? Do you think this is a constructive way to move forward, or detrimental to doing so?
4. When Lara says she’s afraid she “betrayed queer women” by kissing Renee on a dare, how did you respond? Do you think her personal choices have any larger consequences? What about Ollie reassuring her that “it’s not always black and white for [queer kids]”?
5. After Lara comes out, Matt tells Ollie he’d assumed Lara was “a lesbian now,” even though she’s bisexual. Have you encountered that kind of bi erasure before? How did it make you feel?
6. Will treats Ollie badly several times in an effort to minimize their history and relationship in public, but Ollie also doesn’t have much patience for Will’s doubts or discomfort that keep him in the closet. Could you see one of their perspectives more strongly than the other? Who did you identify with more?

Discussion Questions



7. We only ever get to see Ollie's perspective; how do you think the story would have been different if we'd gotten to see Will's side? Or Lara's?
8. How does Will's and Lara's bisexuality affect them each differently?
9. Ollie, each of his parents, his uncle, and his young cousins all deal with their grief in different ways. Did any of their responses resonate with you particularly?
10. At the beginning, Ollie's mom stresses the importance of making sacrifices for the people we love. How did Ollie's actions towards various loved ones throughout the book align with this value? Do you agree that it's important to make sacrifices for the people we love? Why or why not?