

The Make-Up Test

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. A large part of what draws Allison and Colin together and also pushes them apart is how competitive they feel toward each other. Have you ever experienced a friendship or romantic relationship like this? How did you deal with it?
2. One central theme of *The Make-Up Test* is the power of literature to leave a lasting impact on a reader and how they see the world. Allison is most strongly affected by medieval literature, and Chaucer's works in particular. Which book has had this kind of impression on you? Why?
3. Were you familiar with any of the literary texts that Allison talks about in *The Make-Up Test*? Are there any you feel like you want to learn more about? What about the story made you more interested in this text?
4. The word "fat" comes up often in *The Make-Up Test*. For Allison (and for author Jenny L. Howe) reclaiming this word is an important step in changing the way the world perceives and responds to fat bodies. As Allison says, "Fat was only an ugly word if you let it be." How did you feel when you came across this word in the book? Why do you think you felt this way?
5. Allison struggles hard with academic perfectionism. Is there anything you felt you needed to be perfect at? Why? How did you deal with this?
6. Both Sophie and Allison are dealing with the transition from college to "the real world." Did you go through this? If so, what was your experience? Was it similar to Allison's and Sophie's?



7. Sophie reminds Allison a number of times in the book that friendships can change but remain strong. Do you agree? What does it take keep a friendship together as people grow and change?
8. Colin's own insecurities are part of what ruined his relationship (both times!) with Allison. Has this ever happened to you? How did you deal with it?
9. Allison has a strong relationship with her mom, but they struggle to understand each other's boundaries when it comes to Allison's father. How does this family dynamic impact Allison's growth throughout the book, especially in her relationship with Colin? Have you ever had to set a boundary with a family member, and how did the experience impact you?
10. Allison talks about having a word wall in high school. What would be on your own word wall? Why?
11. Do you think the third time will be the charm for Allison and Colin?

