

A Million Miles from Boston

by Karen Day

STUDY GUIDE B

- 1 Lucy says that she feels more like her “true” self in Maine. What does she mean by this? Why do you think she feels this way? Do you have a special place you like to return to?
- 2 For much of the book Lucy doesn’t like Julia, her father’s girlfriend. Why? Do you think Lucy is being fair or unfair? Bucky seems to like Julia. Why are Lucy’s feelings different from Bucky’s?
- 3 Lucy knows how to do a lot of things for a 12-year-old, such as how to run a camp for the younger kids. Sometimes it seems like she’s an adult. Why do you think she acts this way?
- 4 Lucy remembers reacting one way when her mom died, but her dad tells her that she reacted different than she remembers. After she learns the truth, Lucy asks her dad if her memories “played tricks on her.” How did her dad answer? Do you think your memories ever play tricks on you?
- 5 Lucy often talks about things being there, even if she can’t see them (“I can smell the ocean, even if I can’t see it.”). Do you think this has anything to do with her missing her mom?
- 6 Lucy talks about a “great big space inside of her.” At the end of the book she knows this space is her mom. Do you ever feel a space like this inside of you? When does that happen?
- 7 What does Lucy do when she feels sad? What do you do?
- 8 What are some ways Lucy keeps her memories of her mom alive? How do others at Pierson Point help to do this, too?
- 9 Toward the end of the book Lucy says, “the water was calm but I saw how it stirred underneath the surface.” Are feelings ever like that? Do you ever act one way but feel differently inside?
- 10 Big changes are hard for Lucy, such as a new family coming to the Point or moving up to middle school. Why do you think these things are so hard for her? Are changes hard for you? What has been the hardest change?
- 11 A lot of people act like a mother to Lucy. Who are these people? What are some things they do that a mom would do? Why do you think they are important to Lucy? Do you think that she ever acts like a mother to anyone? Why does she do that?