

A Million Miles from Boston

by Karen Day

STUDY GUIDE A

- 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 Is someone bullied in the book? Who? Can you think of some reasons why someone might be a bully? Do you know any bullies? Have you ever been bullied?
- 3 For much of the book Lucy doesn’t like Julia, her dad’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?
- 4 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?
- 5 At first Lucy can’t stand Ian. Then they become good friends. Why does she change her mind? Have you ever changed your mind about someone?
- 6 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?
- 7 What are some things that make Ian likeable? What makes him annoying?
- 8 Why is Superior the dog a perfect best friend for Lucy? Do you have a favorite pet or someone that feels like a best friend?
- 9 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?
- 10 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?