

READING GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Sam's mother insists on speaking only in Korean. Do you think this is a good way for children to learn a language? Do you think kids with immigrant parents should learn their heritage language? What do you think of Sam's decision not to speak Korean? Do you think when she's older she'll possibly regret it?
2. Music and languages, as well as most school subjects, come easily to Sam. Are there subjects or skills that are the same for you? What are they?
3. Sam is able to do accelerated grades 7 and 8. She'll be 12 when she starts high school and 15 when she graduates. Do you think kids like Sam benefit from an accelerated program? Or is it better for them to progress through school grades as Morley and Jayden do, with other kids their own ages? If you could have, would you have made the same choice that Sam did about what school to go to?
4. What do you think of her mother's plans for Sam's future?
5. Sam keeps secrets from her mother. One of them is that she and Margaret only speak Spanish when they're together. Are there other secrets Sam has? Do you think it's right for kids to have secrets? Why or why not? And should adults keep secrets from kids, as Morley's mother does?
6. What do you think about Umma's rules about using airports? Are they good rules?
7. In this series, both Umma and Aoife think that they should choose their daughter's clothing, even though Sam and Morley have very different taste than their mothers do in clothing and almost everything else. Should kids

Reading Group Questions – Mothers And Daughters

get to choose what they wear? Should they have a clothing budget to buy their own clothes?

8. Would you enjoy spending the summer with the jeunes filles at Madame Boulanger's private music school in Paris, as Sam does every year?
9. Sam chooses not to live with her father and his new family in California. What do you think of her choice? Would you do the same?
10. Sam's father is famous. She chooses not to let anyone except her closest friends know this. What are her reasons, and do you agree with them? Or would you want everyone to know if you had a famous parent or relative?
11. Why does Sam lie to her friends about Christmas and about what it's like when she goes to New York? Are there other lies she tells? In her situation, would you do the same?
12. Sam has a real dilemma when she's expected to perform at the school Christmas concert. She comes up with a creative solution that not everyone appreciates. What do you think of it?
13. Did Margaret lie to Sam about going to Hawaii? What do you think about how Margaret handled the situation? Could she have done anything better or different?
14. Sam doesn't want to move to Hawaii. What are her reasons? Do you think that when parents want to move their kids should have a say in the decision?
15. What do you think of Soo Min Park as a parent? As Margaret's employer? As a lawyer and an employee? Would you want to be her friend?
16. What do you think of Morley's Happy Paws idea? Does it sound like a group you'd like to join?

Reading Group Questions – Mothers And Daughters

17. Sam decides not to tell anyone she's moving away until after Christmas. Do you think she did the right thing? Would you have handled this news to friends differently?
18. Is there something in your life that means as much to you as music does to Sam? What is it?
19. In this book, Sam gets an 'accidental' Christmas with the Star family. Do you think you would have enjoyed sharing it with them?
20. Have you ever had a Christmas or other holiday that turned out very differently than the way it was planned? Was it better, or worse, or just different than the original plan?
21. What do you think Jayden should do about his brother Elyot?
22. What do you think of the piano game Sam plays with Daisy?
23. Dom is Eira's boyfriend and they might get married. Is he a good boyfriend? Do you think he'll be a good husband? And possibly a good father?
24. Sam makes a wish at the end of this story. What do you think her wish is?