**The Kate in Between**

**Questions for *during reading:***

**Chapters 1 – 5**

1. Compare and contrast how Haddie and Kate are feeling about their friendship at the end of chapter one.
2. On page 2 the author wrote, “the air seemed to crackle with change” What image does the use of the word crackle create? Why would the author use this word?
3. Have you ever felt grown up and “tiny” at the same time?
4. How does Kate feel about her mom’s job? Use evidence from the text to support your thinking.
5. On page 19, Kate tells us she thinks Taylor has something against Haddie. But she’s not sure what it is. What do you think it is?
6. What happened to Kate and Haddie’s relationship. Why did it change so dramatically?
7. Compare and contrast how Kate feels about Taylor and Haddie. Ever been caught between two friends?
8. How do you think Kate’s relationship with her parents influenced her choice of friends?
9. Summarize and analyze how Kate chose to act while at the pond. What would you say to Kate?

**Chapters 6 – 10**

1. What can we infer about Kate’s feelings towards her basketball team? Use details from the story to support your answer.
2. How does the authors use of the phrase, “I was tempted to spit back…” help the reader understand how Kate feels about her height? How do Kate’s feelings about her physical appearance contribute to the story?
3. What is your definition of a friend? Who is/are Kate’s friends?
4. Principal Howe calls the incident at the pond bullying. Kate says it was a joke that went too far. What do you think?
5. How does mom’s work at True U affect Kate’s decision to go on TV?
6. If you were Haddie would you have named the students at the pond? What advice would you give her?
7. Reread pages 100 to 101. How does the author build a sense of excitement and tension in this scene?
8. Kate describes lunch in middle school as a battlefield. Do you agree? Why or why not?
9. Why do you suppose the author included the character JC in the story?
10. Describe the conflict Kate is feeling about the rescue throughout these chapters. How does the repeated use of the phrase of “I don’t/didn’t know” on pages 122 and 123 impact the tone of the text?

**Chapters 11-15**

1. On page 141 Kate says she’s afraid to be who she is sometimes. She lists things she does just because others do it. Are there things you do just because others do it?
2. After reading chapter 11, make a prediction about where Kate’s mom is and what’s happening to her.
3. On page 149 Haddie accuses Kate of being a bully. She says, “You’re *one of them*.” Do you agree with Haddie? Why or why not? Why do suppose Haddie apologized for her comment?
4. During the night Kate goes on the patio and does some thinking about the rescue and her relationship with her “friends” (pages 157-159). What mood is the author trying to create? How does the author’s writing style contribute to the mood?
5. Why was going to Cory Seymour’s house important to the story? How did this event help the reader understand the relationship between Kate and Haddie? How did this event help the reader understand the relationship between Kate and Taylor?
6. Reread pages 172-176. Kate and her mom have a lengthy conversation about work and how things are going. What words would you use to describe Kate’s mom at this moment? What would you say to Kate’s mom? What role does this character play in the story?
7. What was Taylor’s purpose in going to Kate’s basketball game? What evidence would you use to support your answer?
8. How does being on the basketball team help Kate deal with things that are happening to her? What helps you deal with things that happen in your life?
9. What do you think of “operation get Haddie and Kate to be friends?” Do you think it will work? Why or why not?

**Chapters 16 – 20**

1. What words would you use to describe how Kate felt when she found out her mom was in Madison?
2. Describe how Kate’s relationship with her mom and dad is changing.
3. How is Kate’s relationship with her parents similar to her relationship with Taylor?
4. After reading chapter 19 make a prediction about what you think is going to happen. What is Taylor’s plan?
5. Kate’s dad asked Kate what she did at the pond (page 241). Why do you suppose Kate thought about all the things she didn’t do?
6. Taylor said she shared the video because Kate pushed her aside and she thought Kate was acting like she was better than everyone else. What are some other reasons you think Taylor shared the video?
7. Dad told Kate that, “People love tearing other people’s lives apart.” Do you agree? What are some ways people do this?
8. Describe the ways Kate’s dad helps her deal with the video release. How do you think your family would respond to something like this?
9. What is your response to Kate’s letter? What do you agree with? What do you disagree with? What would you say to Kate?
10. Make a list of things Kate learns about herself, her friends and her parents. What do you think Kate wanted most in the story?
11. What did you like about the ending of the book? Would you have changed anything?

**Questions for groups *after reading:***

**FIFTH GRADE**

1. What is one theme of this story? Use examples from the story to support your answer. What is one lesson you think the author would like readers to learn? *RL5.1 RL5.2*
2. The tone used in writing refers to the feeling the words invoke in the reader. How would you describe the tone of this story? Use examples from the story to support your thinking. *RL5.4*
3. How would this story be different if it were told from the perspective of one of the boys? *RL5.6*
4. How would you retell this story, including important parts from the beginning, middle and end? *RL5.5*
5. On page 162, Kate says she felt chosen by Taylor. What does she mean? If you were Haddie how would you have responded? *RL4.4*
6. Explain why Mom’s business (Tru U Makeup) is important to the story. *RL 5.1*
7. Compare and contrast Kate’s relationship with her mother and father. *RL5.3*
8. What does Taylor think of Rachel and Haddie’s performance on the Cory Seymour show? If you were Kate would you have told Taylor that Haddie was coming to California? *RL 5.6*
9. What emotion or feeling does the phrase, “it was as dark and stormy as the start of a horror movie”, on page 235, create? What does Kate mean? *RL5.4*
10. Compare and contrast how you felt about Taylor at the beginning of the story vs. the end of the story. *RL5.3*

**SIXTH GRADE**

1. What details from the story support the theme, self-discovery? What other themes emerge in this story? Pick a quote from the book to that best supports your thinking. *RL6.1, RL6.2*
2. How does mom’s work at True U affect Kate’s feelings about herself and the decisions she makes? *RL6.1*
3. On page 103, the author uses the literary device of a flashback. Why do you suppose this scene is included in the story? What is the author trying to show the reader? *RL6.5*
4. Choose one character from the book, besides Kate. What life lessons did this character learn throughout the story? How does he/she change throughout the story? *RL6.3*
5. How does the visit to California influence Kate’s feelings about Haddie? Give examples from the text to support your thinking. *RL6.5*
6. Reread page 277. What tone is the author trying to create? What words contribute to this feeling? *RL6.4*

**SEVENTH GRADE**

1. What is the theme of this story? Describe how this theme recurs in the text. Use specific examples and evidence from the text to support your thinking. *RL7.1, RL7.2*
2. How would this story be different if Kate’s mom was home and not working at Tru U? *RL7.3*
3. What affect does Kate’s feelings about her physical appearance have on the story? *RL7.3*
4. On page 36, the author wrote, “Like an attack dog who’s torn free from its leash, Violet kept going.” How does this phrase illustrate how Violet is feeling. Why do you suppose Violet acted this way? *RL7.4*
5. On page 235, the author wrote, “The way I had laid my cards, she was now laying hers.” What does this mean? *RL7.4*
6. Reread the conversation Kate and Taylor had on pages 243 and 244. Describe each character’s point of view of what happened. How does the author create a sense of excitement at this point in the story? *RL7.6*
7. Compare and contrast Taylor and Haddie’s point of view on bullying. Use examples from the story to support your thinking. *RL7.1,* *RL7.6*

**EIGHTH GRADE**

1. In your opinion, is Kate a victim of bullying or a perpetrator of bullying? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. *RL8.1, RL8.3*
2. Taylor never engaged in physical bullying. How did she control the group and get them to do things she wanted? Site some specific examples from the text. *RL8.1, RL8.3*
3. What is one theme of this story? Select one or two quotes from the text to illustrate that theme of the story. *RL8.2, RL8.1*
4. How does Kate’s understanding of herself change throughout the story? *RL8.2*
5. On page 185 the author wrote, “Life is hiding around the corner with something horrible up its sleeve”. What does this sentence mean? What images come to mind? What words does the author use to create this image? *RL8.4*
6. Reread the last paragraph on page 213. What is the tone the author is trying to create? What words does she use to help create this tone? *RL8.4*
7. What does Kate and Taylor’s conversation on pages 243-244 reveal about each of them? How does the author create a sense of suspense and excitement during this scene? *RL8.3,* *RL8.6*
8. Describe the impact Kate’s letter had on Haddie, Taylor, and her dad. *RL8.3*