

WISHES, DARES CORE CONTENT STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Compare and contrast how the main characters (Jack, Jill, Katy, Cody) use the wishes.
2. Why is Jack reluctant to wish his dad home?
3. How do the main characters deal with bullies?
4. Describe how the absent character, Dad, plays an important role in the story.
5. What does it mean to “do the right thing, not the easy thing?” Give personal examples.
6. What does Jack learn from Gran?
7. What does Jack learn from Pops?
8. What does Jack learn from Jill? Katy?
9. What does Cody learn about himself?
10. Explain how Katy’s five-year-old point of view changes each of the characters.
11. How does Jack define a hero?
12. Based on Jack’s definition, who are the heroes in your life?
13. Do you think the story would be different if set in today’s world? Discuss your reasoning and give examples.
14. What does it mean to “hold onto hope”?
15. Which character is your favorite and why?
16. Which character do you think changed the most? Give examples to support your answer.
17. How do you think the story would change if it were written in prose instead of free verse?
18. Knowing that wishes have consequences, if you had three wishes, what would you wish for?

19. Discuss the scariest moments for each of the characters.
20. What do you like most about each character?
21. How does Jack's relationship with Katy change over the course of the story?
22. What is your favorite scene/ event/ poem in the story? Why?
23. Which character surprised you the most? Explain your answer.
24. What do the sunglasses worn by Jill and Cody's mom symbolize in the story?
25. Who shows courage in the story? Explain your answer.
26. How are common objects used as symbols in the story? (beachball, garden, kite, tent, fish, bike, tree). What symbols do they represent?