



Harford County Public Library

Discussion Questions *The Seventh Wish* by Kate Messner

1. Mrs. McNeill says to Charlie, “Wish all you want. Wishing doesn’t make a thing so.” How does her perspective compare to your own?
2. Charlie has wished on the wish fish with good intentions. How have her wishes provided relief and how have they caused problems?
3. Abby’s addiction comes as a surprise to her family. In hindsight, what clues in the story can you find that something has changed with Abby?
4. At first look, Abby does not fit the picture of a drug addict. How has your perception of an addict changed through the course of reading *The Seventh Wish*?
5. What assumptions does Charlie make about the rehab center and how are her assumptions challenged?
6. How is Charlie’s mom dealing with the truth of Abby’s addiction? Who do you think is having a harder time?
7. How does the Serenity Prayer affect different people in the story?
8. Charlie wonders about the Serenity Prayer and its appropriateness for kids. What things about Charlie’s situation is she in control? What can she change? What can she not change?
9. How is Charlie’s craving for ice fishing similar to and different from Abby’s addiction?
10. Charlie chose not to tell her closest friends about her sister’s addiction. What was Charlie’s fear about being honest with her friends? If you were Charlie’s friend, how would you have responded to her family’s trouble?
11. Why does Charlie’s promise to Abby mean more than a signature on the D.A.R.E. car?
12. *The Seventh Wish* starts with Charlie discovering delicate ice flowers on the lake. How does this imagery relate to the actions, relationships, and feelings in the story?
13. *The Seventh Wish* takes place in upstate New York, in a town by Lake Champlain. What impact does this setting have on the story?
14. What fears does Charlie have and how does she overcome them? What lessons does the story have about overcoming your fears?
15. Why do addicts work so hard to keep their addiction a secret?
16. What do you imagine Charlie wants to say to Abby? What might you want to say if Abby were your older sister?
17. What consequences does Abby pay for her addiction? What consequences do Charlie and her family face?
18. Addiction can impact the lives of an entire family. How is Charlie’s family impacted by Abby’s addiction?