

THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF  
*Coyote Sunrise*

DAN GEMEINHART

DISCUSSION GUIDE



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Five years.

That's how long Coyote and her dad, Rodeo, have lived on the road in an old school bus, crisscrossing the nation.

It's also how long ago Coyote lost her mom and two sisters in a car crash.

Coyote hasn't been home in all that time. But when she learns that the park in her old neighborhood is being demolished—the very same park where she, her mom, and her sisters buried a treasured memory box—she devises an elaborate plan to get her dad to drive 3,600 miles back to Washington State . . . in four days—without him realizing it.

Along the way, they'll pick up a strange crew of misfit travelers. Lester has a lady love to meet. Salvador and his mom are looking to start over. Val needs a safe place to be herself. And then there's Gladys . . .

Over the course of thousands of miles, Coyote will learn that going home can sometimes be the hardest journey of all . . . but that with friends by her side, she just might be able to turn her “once upon a time” into a “happily ever after.”

“Your heart needs this joyful miracle of a book.”

—KATHERINE APPLIGATE

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**



**Dan Gemeinhart** is a former elementary-school teacher-librarian and lifelong book nerd. He lives with his wife and three daughters in a small town in Washington State. He's the author of some other books, too: *The Honest Truth*, *Some Kind of Courage*, *Scar Island*, and *Good Dog*. If he ever meets you, he'd love to talk about books with you.

[CoyoteSunrisebook.com](http://CoyoteSunrisebook.com)



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**QUESTIONS:**

1. Coyote says that this story begins when she meets Ivan—even though her adoption of Ivan is long before she ever thinks about going home. Why do you think this is where Coyote decides to start her story? What does Ivan mean to her?
2. Coyote spends a lot of time telling us about her memories. Why are memories important? How do memories play a part in your life, which memories hold strong significance for you?
3. Each of the characters that join Coyote and Rodeo on their journey have a problem or situation that they are trying to overcome. How do their journeys affect each other, and what lessons do you think they learn from meeting and traveling with one another?
4. Salvador is Coyote's first friend since she lost her sisters. Why is Coyote able to get close to Salvador in a way that she was never able to get close to anyone else? How are Coyote and Salvador similar? How are they different? Why are friendships so important?
5. Rodeo and Coyote have a close father-daughter bond, but there is still a lot they have trouble talking about. Why do you think some things are hard to talk about even with loved ones?
6. One of the things that Coyote and Rodeo like to do is ask each other for a "once upon a time." Why do you think they do this? Why are stories so powerful?
7. Goodbyes are hard for everyone; Coyote just avoids them altogether. How do you deal with goodbyes? Have you ever had to say a hard goodbye? How did you deal with it?
8. Many promises are made throughout the novel by the characters. What are some of the promises made and why? Why is it important to keep promises and when is it right to break a promise?
9. What are the no-go's in Rodeo and Coyote's life? Why do you think they're off-limits? What changes by the end of the book?
10. Rodeo calls Coyote his compass because she guides all his decisions. What guides your decisions, and why?
11. If you lived on Yager, what three questions would you ask someone before letting them on? Who would you bring along on a road trip?

