

YOU'VE REACHED SAM

Discussion Questions

1. In her attempt to move on after Sam's death, Julie skips his funeral, throws out his things, and tries everything to forget him. However, Julie later regrets all of these decisions. Why did this attempt to deal with her grief ultimately not work out the way she imagined?
2. Julie wants to be a writer, but she worries her work isn't good enough. When Mr. Lee gifts her a new notebook, he tells her she must learn to "write for herself." What do you think he means by this?
3. Throughout the book, we learn Mika and Oliver are also struggling with losing Sam. How are their ways of dealing with grief different from Julie's, as well as each other's?
4. When Julie asks Sam how long their connection will last, he says it won't be forever, as much as she wants it to be. He tells her that at one point they both need to say goodbye. Why is this important?
5. During one of their calls, Sam reveals he's worried about them and what they're doing to Julie. Why do you think he's concerned? What do you think of Julie's reaction?
6. During her trip to Seattle, Julie tells Mika she's having a hard time letting go of Sam. However, in response, Mika says Julie can never fully let him go, even if she wanted to. What does she mean by this? How does this change the way Julie thinks of Sam?
7. After James runs away from home, Julie finds him in the park where he and Sam used to play together. In order to help him heal, Julie lets him speak to Sam on the phone, knowing this could ultimately break the connection between her and Sam. Why do you think she makes this decision? What does it mean for her?
8. When Julie finally opens up to her mom, she tells her mom that she still wishes Sam were still there. In an unexpected response, her mom says, "It's okay to wish for those things, and even imagine him here with you. Because those moments inside our heads are just as real as anything else." What do you think she means by this?

