

Discussion Guide

Roll With It by Jamie Sumner

1. What challenges did Ellie face? What challenges did Bert face? What challenges did Coralee face?
2. How were their challenges similar to or different from things you've faced?
3. What strengths did Ellie have? What strengths did Bert have? What strengths did Coralee have?
4. How did Ellie, Coralee, and Bert look out for each other?
5. This novel is told in first person -- Ellie is telling the story. Do you think that had an impact on how you ended up feeling about her disability? Would you have felt differently if the story was told by a distant (3rd person) narrator?
6. Ellie and her mom uproot their whole lives to move to Oklahoma to help take care of Ellie's grandfather. Describe Grandpa's illness. What does it look like on a daily basis? How are his struggles different from Ellie's? How are they the same?
7. For the first time in her life, Ellie is helping to take care of someone else, Grandpa, instead of being the one in need of care. How do Ellie and her mom approach Grandpa's care differently?
8. Describe Ellie's relationship with her mom from Ellie's perspective. Now describe it from her mom's perspective. What is their main point of conflict? How do they learn to better relate to each other by the end of the novel?
9. If you moved to a totally new school, imagine your best possible first day and your worst possible first day. Describe.

10. Explain the title of the novel. Give several interpretations.