



Letters to the Lost

By Brigid Kemmerer

Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions:

1. Grief affects each person in a different and personal way. What has grief taught you so far in life?
2. Letters can be used for many different purposes. Have you ever written a letter to someone that you never sent? What changed in you after writing the letter?
3. Explain a time where your initial judgement of someone turned out to be wrong.

Post-reading questions:

1. Juliet is struggling with the grief she feels after losing her mother. What was your initial reaction to Declan responding to her letters in the cemetery? Do you think he should've left them alone or do you think he was right to start a dialogue with her?
2. Do you relate more to Juliet or her father in how they handle the grief they feel from losing Juliet's mother? For example, Juliet struggles openly while her father becomes more quiet.
3. Mr. Gerardi sees a lot of potential in Juliet which is why he gently pushes her back toward photography. Do you have a teacher in your life who saw something in you and pushed you to something greater?
4. Rev is an important character in this book because he offers a great deal of support for Declan. Do you have a friendship in your life that is as important to you as they were to each other? How do you show unconditional support to your own friend?
5. *Spoiler alert* Were you relieved or disappointed when Declan and Juliet found out who the other person was? Do you think their relationship would have ever developed if they had not exchanged letters?
6. Declan and Juliet have very different relationships with their parents. How does your own relationship with your parents compare to theirs? If you could give them each one piece of advice to improve their relationships, what would you say?

Post-reading Activities

1. Juliet, Declan, and Rev are all captivating characters. Select one and write a poem based off of something that happened in the book from their perspective. Follow the guidelines at tomesociety.org/competitions.html to enter it into the Tome Poem competition.
2. Incarceration and probation are underlying stories throughout Letters to the Lost. Create an infographic about the prison system and probation. Follow the guidelines and submit it to the Infographic competition.

More About This Book

- FlipGrid Topic Link: <https://flipgrid.com/c63b84ab>
- Check out the author's official website at: brigidkemmerer.com