



# Stay

## Catherine Ryan Hyde

### Tome Society It List Discussion Guide

### August 2022 Book of the Month



#### Pre-reading questions

1. Running makes Lucas feel like his problems fade away. Why do you think that is? Is there an activity or place where all your problems disappear for a little while?
2. A main theme of this book is the “what if moments” or “tipping points” of life. How has this theme been addressed throughout the book?
3. What do you know about the Vietnam War? Discuss this amongst yourselves for a moment. What are some questions that you have now that you have?

#### Post-reading questions

1. When Roy writes home, the military redacts a lot of information. How does this affect both families at home and the military at war? Why would the military need to redact information from letters by soldiers?
2. The author draws a lot of attention to the fact that someone’s life can change in just the blink of an eye. Lucas calls these “tipping points”. How might his life have been different if he hadn’t gotten lost in the woods? How might that one difference have created a ripple effect impacting the other characters of the book?
3. Throughout the story, Lucas feels like everything and everyone is his responsibility. Is this mentality healthy? Explain.
4. Mrs. Dinsmore tells Lucas he “is not the center of the universe and doesn’t control things as much as he thinks he does”. How do you think this made Lucas feel? When did you first realize that you weren’t in control of everything? Do you still struggle with this?
5. Lucas and Connor have difficult home lives, but for very different reasons. Lucas’s parents fight constantly, but Connor’s parents barely talk to each other. How might silence be worse than yelling? Or vice versa?
6. When Roy comes home, Lucas says he looks the same but different. Why do you think he says this? What do you think has really changed about Roy?
7. Roy makes a decision to come home from Vietnam. How did the decision impact him and his relationships with others moving forward?
8. Lucas says the dogs were the only creatures that had no problem showing him how much they loved him and that they could watch him cry without judgment. How did their unconditional love help Lucas? What lesson can we learn from these animals?
9. When Lucas gets older, instead of joining the military after being drafted, he decides to go to jail instead. What life experiences do you think influenced this decision?
10. Lucas is told his story is a sad one because everyone has died. Do you believe this is true? Explain.

## **Post-reading activities**

1. Even though the Vietnam War ended less than 50 years ago, many today do not know the basic facts about this conflict. Do some research into the Vietnam War, then create an infographic displaying the information you have learned. Ask your adviser to submit your completed infographic to the Tome Society competition.
2. Redesign the cover for the book using a graphic design program. Follow the guidelines to enter your final product into the Tome Digital Graphic Cover Redesign Competition.

## **More About This Book**

Author's Website: [catherineryanhyme.com](http://catherineryanhyme.com)

Discussion questions are also included in the back of the book.