

Story Questions for *Things I'll Know When I Grow Up*

The following questions are meant to help you think about the characters, plot, and your own life. Some people have trouble saying what they feel. It's okay if you are one of them. Tell us what you think instead if feelings don't make sense to you. (Teachers, to get a PDF of these questions, [click here](#). They can be used as written questions, or perhaps better, small group discussions.)

1. Do you have a sibling who annoys you? What is the worst thing they do?
2. Did you ever do something you didn't want to do for a friend? Tell us about it.
3. Have you ever dissed someone and felt badly about it? What did you do to set it right? If you didn't do anything, why not?
4. Why does Sophie worry that her parents are unhappy with each other? Give specific examples.
5. Sometimes things we do have results that aren't what we hoped for (unintended consequences). Sophie is happy her dad has agreed to help her go on the trip. What bad thing happens because he agrees?
6. How does Sophie feel about boys at the beginning of the story? Does that change by the end? How?
7. What do you learn about Sophie when she teaches Ryker to swim?
8. Why do you think Emily treats Sophie the way she does?
9. Why does Sophie talk to Grant and tell him things she doesn't tell anyone else?
10. Have you ever seen a play? How about one written by Shakespeare? What makes a play different from television, a movie, or seeing something on the internet?
11. Sophie takes action against Emily. Do you think she is right or wrong to hit her with the plastic bag? How about poking her?
12. Have you ever done anything that wasn't nice to get back at someone? Tell us about it if you wish.

13. Do you have mean girls (or boys) in your school? Why do you think they are like that? Do you think they change when they grow up?
14. How important do you think money is for a happy life? Will you need some money when you grow up? How do you plan to get it?
15. When Sophie's dad is hurt, her family pitches in to help. How have you helped your family or friends when they have needed it?
16. What do you think about how Aunt Liz handled Emily's mother?
17. What makes Sophie get a dress?
18. How was Aunt Liz's life as a pre-teen than Sophie's?
19. Do you think Sophie and Kennedy will remain friends? Why or why not?
20. Name two ways Sophie changed between the beginning of the book and the end of the book.