

Story Questions for Unwanted

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.

1. At the beginning of the book, Alex feels that her parents don't want her. Do you think her parents want her? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever felt your parents didn't want you around? If you'd like, tell us about the experience.
3. Alex hates being the "new kid." Have you ever been the "new kid"? What was that experience like? How do you treat a kid who is new to your school?
4. Describe the relationship between Bodie and Alex at the beginning of the book. How is it different at the end?
5. Alex earns money by collecting eggs from the chickens and selling them. How have you earned money?
6. What happened that made everything change again for Alex? Why did it make everything change?
7. We often have dreams of what we want to be when we grow up. I know I wanted to be a nurse, an actress, an airline stewardess, or a writer. In ways I've been them all in my life. What do you want to do when you grow up? What was Alex's dream?
1. Gloria and her family are refugees. What is a refugee? What makes a person become a refugee? How does a refugee become an American citizen?
8. Jasmine used to be Alex's friend. Now she's being mean. Has anything like that ever happened to you? Tell us about it if you like.
9. What do you think is wrong with Grandma?
10. Why might Native Americans object to the use of the word "tribe"?
11. What country is Gloria from? What continent is that on? Name two things that Alex does with Gloria that teach her more about Gloria's culture? Have you learned about another person's culture? What did you learn?
12. What is Alex's job at the zoo? How does she feel about it? What does Grandma tell her?

13. Why does Alex dread the dance? How do you feel about school dances?
14. Why isn't Alex happy about seeing her mother in July?
15. What are two things Alex learns about guinea pigs? Did you learn anything? If so, what did you learn?
16. What else happens to threaten Alex's dream of staying in Billings and working in the zoo?
17. Contrast Alex's description of her life in Denver and her life in Billings. How is it different? How is it the same?
18. How does Alex handle the news that Jasmine tells her? What would you do if a friend told you something horrible that was happening to her and told you to keep quiet?
19. What actions does Alex take to try to help her family understand they have alternatives?
20. How does Alex's behavior change toward her Mom? How has her mother changed?
21. Name two ways Alex changed between the beginning of the book and the end of the book.