

Wishing Upon the Same Stars

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think the title of this story means?
2. What are the major themes of this story? See if you can list three.
3. When the Khoury family is confronted with racism at the fast-food restaurant, what different reactions did you notice among the customers? Why might people behave in these different ways?
4. What assumptions do we make when we first meet someone based upon their appearance? What about their accent, what they are eating, or how they are dressed? How might our assumptions change after getting to know them?
5. What do Yasmeen and Ayelet have in common? What are their differences?
6. Like Yasmeen, have you ever thought that telling a lie was a small thing to do, only to find out later that it was way bigger than you thought? How did you find your way to telling the truth again?
7. How does fixing Sitti's garden after the big Texas storm bring the Khoury and Cohen families together? How does it begin to heal old wounds?
8. What does Yasmeen learn about her parents' expectations after the Math Lab competition? What does she learn about herself?
9. Have you ever been in Waverly's position where you didn't stand up for someone you should have, or you stood up for someone you shouldn't have? How did you feel afterward? How did you make amends?
10. What are some of the ways Ayelet, Carlos, and Esme uphold their cultures? How do Yasmeen's new friends help her better understand her own culture?
11. At the end of the book, do you think Yasmeen has a new appreciation for her culture and heritage? Do you think she's comfortable with her identity as a person with Palestinian, Lebanese, and American roots?