

# THE SUMMER LIST

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Reader's Guide





1. What are your most cherished summer memories? Where did they take place? Have you been back to visit these spots? If so, what felt different or the same?
2. In *The Summer List*, the scavenger hunt leads Laura and Casey to the physical locations of their teenage summer memories. In what way does the scavenger hunt take on greater meaning in the novel?
3. Discuss these relationships: between Laura and Casey; Laura and Alex; Katherine and Alexandra; Katherine and Daniel. How are they similar or different?
4. Who is the Casey in your life? Are there friends you haven't spoken with in a long time with whom you'd like to reconnect? Is it ever best to leave a friendship in the past?
5. Why does Laura keep the music box in her pocket? What secrets did you keep from your family when you were a teenager? Why?
6. Did you understand Laura's decision to run away and attend school in Georgia, rather than in Los Angeles with Casey, following her father's death?
7. Did you agree with Alex's decision to keep the ALS gene a secret from Casey and Laura? If not, how would you have

approached the situation differently? Would you have wanted to know if it were you, or would you have preferred not to know, like Casey?

8. How did the dream-like quality of Katherine's chapters affect your reading experience and your understanding of Katherine's fate?
9. How did your feelings toward Ingrid Christie, Laura's mother, evolve throughout the novel, if at all?
10. Was the ending of the book uplifting or sad? What does the last scene suggest about the bonds between mothers and daughters?
11. Who was your favorite character in the novel? Who did you identify with most?
12. What was your favorite clue in the scavenger hunt?