

*Songs for a Teenage Nomad* by Kim Culbertson

Middle School Study Questions

Chapters 1-5

1. What are your first impressions of Calle? Why is her song journal so important to her?
2. Describe what you know so far about Calle's father. What does Calle find that is significant?
3. Describe Calle's relationship with her mother.
4. How do the drama kids make her transition to the new school different from past schools?
5. Who are Eli and Sam and Cass? Describe them.

Chapters 6-10

1. How does Calle react to Sam's line about her being a "strange girl"? What does she think makes her "strange"?
2. Who is Amber? How does she interact with Calle?
3. What happens with Sam and Calle at the beach?
4. "Yellow" is often a color symbol for being a coward. How is Sam a coward in the chapter entitled "Yellow"?
5. What happens with Sam when Calle approaches him? Why does the poem in the bathroom catch her eye?

Chapters 11-15

1. What's going on with Sam and his home life?
2. What changes for Calle's life when she finds the letter in her mom's drawer?
3. What does she learn from Tala when she has her fortune cookies read? What happens when she confronts her mother?
4. Where does Cass take her? What does Calle learn in this scene?
5. What happens with Eli? Why does this complicate things for Calle?

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6. What does Calle witness between Alyson and Rob? Why might Calle be worried?

Chapters 16-20

1. What does Sam want from Calle? How is he different at school than when he sees her outside of school?
2. What happens at Lucky's? How does this change Calle's view of both Cass and Sam?
3. What happens with Rob? How does Alyson react? How does Calle respond to her mom?
4. How does Sam help Calle? Why do you think he does this?
5. Much is uncovered around mothers and fathers in these chapters – for Sam, for Calle, for Cass. What do you as a reader learn?

Chapters 21-25 and the Epilogue

1. Who does Calle see at the café? What happens when she chases him into the alley? What impact does he have on Calle in the early part of these chapters?
2. What happens at the dance? Why is it significant?
3. Lucky's becomes an important setting for Cass, Sam and Calle. What choice does Calle have to make here at the end of the novel?
4. What does Calle find out from Sam? How does she respond to him?
5. How does the last scene in Chapter 25 transform her life?
6. Why is the Tambourine Man so important to Calle? What do we learn about him in the epilogue?