



Reading Guide for *Songs for a Teenage Nomad*

1. How do adults in the story – Alyson, Rob, Jake, Mr. Ericson, Mr. Atkins – though secondary, provide contrast to the teenagers and their own personal stories and journeys?
2. How does the first person narrator (Calle's voice) shape your understanding as the reader of the events in the novel?
3. At the end of Chapter 10, Calle finds the poem on the wall. She says, "I'm sitting in the night of this poem." What does she mean by that? Poetry becomes important in the novel, both through the song lyrics and also through the character of Cass. What role does poetry play?
4. Several themes stand out – betrayal, love, fear, loss- what was one of the most important themes in the novel for you and why?
5. There are many "triangles" in this novel in regards to relationships: Calle-Alyson-Jake/ Calle-Sam-Eli/ Calle-Sam-Cass/ Calle-Sam-Amber, etc. Calle is clearly the connecting point on all these triangles – what do you feel is the most dominant of the triangular relationships and why?
6. What ultimately comes of Calle's dream and her Tambourine Man? Why is the Epilogue crucial for the closure to this dream?
7. Each of the three main teenagers --Sam, Calle, and Cass--deal with complicated relationships with their mothers and fathers? What do you as a reader learn? How does each teenager process their own situation? Do they make peace with it?
8. Lucky's becomes an important sanctuary for Calle, Sam, and Cass. What role does setting play in this novel? What are other settings that take on important roles for the characters?
9. Why does Calle keep a song journal?
10. What is the sound track of your life?

