



BEST. NIGHT. EVER.

TEACHER & READER GUIDE





READER'S GUIDE

- Genevieve is afraid to sing alone in front of other people. How does this affect her in the book? Provide specific examples where we see this fear throughout the book.
- What are some of your fears? How can you overcome them? Write a personal narrative about a time you were afraid to do something. What was the outcome? Did you overcome the fear or did it stop you from doing what you had planned to do?
- In Chapter Two, Genevieve says, "Six months ago, Syd would've rolled her eyes and made a face at me over Iland's shoulder, but now she looks super interested. These days, it's getting harder and harder to find my best friend in her." What does she mean by this? Explain her feelings by citing specific examples in the book to support this.
- In Chapter Two, Genevieve says, "Bizarrely enough, hearing that I should be scared makes me feel better." Why do you think this makes her feel better?
- In Chapter Five, Ryan says, "I can't say that to her, though. All I can do is support her by agreeing that Tess is evil. That's what being a good friend means. Right?" In what ways is Ryan a good friend to Mariah? In what ways isn't he a good friend? Find specific examples from the book to support your views. What do you think makes a good friend?
- In Chapter Five when Ryan talks about his friendship with Mariah, he says that, "...things have gotten awkward between us since middle school started." Where do you see changes in friendship happen in the book? Do you believe this is a realistic feeling in middle school? Why or why not?
- Compare and contrast Ashlyn and Ellie. How are they different? How are they the same? Out of the two characters, who would you want to be friends with? Why?
- The twins make a comment about how much they miss Ellie. Ashlyn is confused that they'd want Ellie over her. She thinks, "At first I'm confused. How is it possible that, even now, they still want Ellie over me? All she ever does is scribble in her journal, which cannot be interesting. I was helping them. I'm the popular, fun one. And Ellie is so...bookish. And goody-goody. And helpful. Only parents prefer good and helpful over fun and popular." Do you believe this is true? Why or why not?
- In Chapter Nine, while watching the twins, Ashlyn makes a comment about popularity and the twins, "...both look at [her] with pity..." Why would they look at her with pity? How does it make Ashlyn feel?

- Ashlyn shares her Life Lessons in the book. Select a character from the book and come up with five Life Lessons that that particular character would create based on what happens to him/her in book. Come up with your own Life Lessons. What are five Life Lessons that you would share?
- When Genevieve finds out that Sydney has had a crush on Kevin that she's never mentioned, Genevieve is hurt. Sydney says, "It's just...you never seem interested in talking about boys and stuff, and I didn't want to make you uncomfortable." Genevieve thinks, "Couldn't she have tried to talk to me about it instead of just assuming I wouldn't be able to handle it and finding new friends?" Do you think Genevieve has a right to be upset? Why or why not?
- Where else in the book do we see characters hold back the truth from others because they assume that other characters aren't interested?
- Which character in Best. Night. Ever. would you most want to be friends with? Which character seems the most like you? Explain why you selected each character.
- What is the message this book is giving about revenge? Use specific examples from the book to support your response.
- In Chapter Thirty, when Ellie is talking to Jade about the possibility that Heart Grenade didn't cheat, she says, "I'm just saying that things aren't always what they seem to be." Where do we see this idea come up in the book. Where does it turn out that things aren't what they seem to be?
- Throughout the book, we see both of the phrases "Best. Night. Ever." and "Worst. Night. Ever." Identify the characters that seem to be having the best night and those who are having the worst night and explain why. How does the night change for some of the characters?
- In Chapter Thirty-Seven, Ellie thinks about how she used to snuggle with her parents in their bed at night. She described it as, "It's a feeling of belonging. It's a feeling of being loved." In what ways does she feel as if she doesn't belong in the book? Explain how these feelings change by the end of the book.
- How has Ellie and Ashlyn's relationship changed? Examine what it was like in the beginning, middle and end of the book. What do you think caused it to change?
- What characters misjudge others? How did these perceptions change over the course of the novel? What causes these perceptions to change?
- The last line of the books states, "Maybe we're all exactly where we're supposed to be tonight." Do you believe this is true? Do you believe that each of the characters where they are supposed to be? Why or why not?
- Evaluate the use of seven narrators. What does it add to the story? What could it possibly detract?

- Examine the seven characters' story arcs. Who were they at the start, how do they change, and what causes this change? Are there any characters that don't change? If so, explain who and whether this is a good thing or a negative thing.
- What are the different settings in this book? Explain how each is important in to the plot.
- Describe different ways in which characters show courage, both big and small, in the book.
- Family is important in this book. Select a minimum of three characters and explain how each views his/her families at the start of the book? How do their relationships with each of their families change by the end of the book?
- One of the themes in the book is feeling like you belong. Where do we see examples of this? How does this theme develop throughout the book, and how does it affect the outcome? Cite specific textual examples to support your responses.
Additional Question: Can you think of any other stories, poems, movies, or songs that have this same theme? Describe them.
- Another important theme is friendship. Where do we see examples of this? How does this theme develop throughout the book and how does it affect the outcome? Cite specific textual examples to support your responses.
Additional Question: Can you think of any other stories, poems, movies, or songs that have this same theme? Describe them.
- Identify another theme or central idea in the book. Where do we see examples of it? How does this theme develop throughout the book and how does it affect the outcome? Cite specific textual examples to support your responses.
Additional Question: Can you think of any other stories, poems, movies, or songs that have this same theme? Describe them.
- We read books for enjoyment, but sometimes we discover that books can teach us things. What has Best. Night. Ever. taught you? Describe in detail.





EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



Best. Night. Ever. is written by seven different authors. Collaborate and write a story with two or more classmates. You should each be a different character so it has multiple points of view. After, write a reflection about the experience. What did you like about writing with multiple authors? What were the challenges? What are the benefits/drawbacks?



Select a minor character in the novel and write a scene from his or her point of view.



Write an e-mail or letter to one of the characters in the book. What would you say to him/her? What questions would you want to ask?



Select five quotations from the book that you think best express the main themes or ideas. Write the quotation down, then explain what was happening when the quotation was said and how it helps to express one of the main themes.



Create your own band. What would your band name be? What kind of music would you play? Design your logo and write the lyrics to a song.



Write song lyrics for one of the characters. What would his/her song be about? How do the lyrics in this song relate to the character?



Create a press kit for Heart Grenade. Include the following information:

- A description of the band and the type of music they play
- A band logo
- Explanation of where the band's name came from
- A set list of song titles
- Bios for each of the girls in the band



Best. Night. Ever. is written in first person point of view. Select a scene in the book and rewrite it in a different point of view. How does this change the story? Which point of view do you like better? Explain your choice.



Create a playlist for the book. Select 8-10 songs and write a paragraph explaining why you chose each song. Make sure to explain the relationships between the songs and the book and use specific lyrics to help describe your choices.

Bonus activity: Create an album cover for your playlist.



Select a scene from Best. Night. Ever. and turn it into a script.

Extra activity: Design a set for the scene, create a sketch of what it would look like.

Extra activity: Create a costume board for the scene.

Extra activity: Perform your scene.



Create a yearbook or social media page for one of the characters. What would it include? Work to capture his/her specific personality.



Create a graphic novel/picture book of Best. Night. Ever. How would you convey the same ideas and themes using pictures and shortened prose?



Create a Pinterest Board that represents a character from Best. Night. Ever. Write a response that explains why you chose the items on the board.



Write a book review for Best. Night. Ever. What did you like about the book? What didn't you like about the book? What type of reader would enjoy this book?



Bonus Activity: Post it on a review site for other people to read.



Write to one of the authors of Best. Night. Ever. You can find contact information for each of them on their author pages. They love hearing from readers!