



Friends and Other Liars Reading Group Guide

Here are a few questions to guide your book club discussion:

- 1) Imagine you are one of the crew listening to Danny's threatening letter. What do you do? Do you immediately tell the group your secret, or do you try to keep it hidden?
- 2) A major theme of the book is keeping secrets and the way that affects our lives. How did keeping secrets affect the lives of each of the characters, as well as their friendships, and how do you think their lives were changed when they were revealed? How do the secrets we keep play a role in our everyday lives?
- 3) Which member of the crew do you relate to the most: Ruby, Murphy, Ally, Emmett, or Danny? Why? Do you think you would've been able to keep their secret? Whose perspective was most enjoyable to read? Who would you like to have heard more from?
- 4) Why do you think Danny set up this game? Was it because he wanted to bring his friends back together, or was something more malevolent driving him forward? How do you think he would feel about the fact that none of them revealed their true secret?
- 5) Ruby St. James is the girl who got out of Chatwick. Do you think she is better off in New York City, or is she happier after returning to her hometown and confronting her past? Have you ever lived away from your hometown? How does it feel to return?
- 6) Ally referred to Ruby and Murphy as darkness and light, respectively. How did this theme emerge throughout the story between them and other characters? Did it make sense to you that they did not end up together, or do you feel that their journey is incomplete?
- 7) We get the sense that Chatwick is the quintessential small town America. What are the pros of living there? What are the cons? If you could move there, would you?

- 8) Describe Murphy and Ruby's friendship. Do you think it is a strong one? What do you think of Murphy when he chooses Taylor over Ruby after telling Ruby that he loved her? Do you think Ruby should forgive him?
- 9) Imagine yourself in Krystal's shoes, how would you react to Ruby returning to town? What if you were Ruby and you see that Krystal and Murphy have some sort of relationship? Do you think Krystal is justified to spill Ally's secret?
- 10) Who do you think has the biggest secret? What are the repercussions on the group?
- 11) Where do you think Danny's troubles began? Do you think his friends are partially responsible for his dark past or the way things ended up for him? What could they have done differently?
- 12) How do you think Danny's letters affect each member of the crew? What do you think happens to each of them after the book ends?
- 13) What do you make of the relationship between Ruby and her parents, particularly her mother? How do you think their relationship will change through Ruby's experience coming back to Chatwick?
- 14) Think of your closest or hometown friends. Do Ruby, Murphy, Ally, Emmett, or Danny remind you of any of them? In what ways? Do you think growing up with a group of friends makes them different from friends you meet later on in life? What is that bond like?