

This One Summer Study Guide

This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki

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Plot Summary

“This One Summer” is a young adult graphic novel by Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki that follows young Rose Wallace as she navigates family difficulties, friendship, and local drama while on summer vacation at Lake Awago. Rose has spent summers at Lake Awago for as long as she can remember. There, she has a best summer friend, Windy, who is a year and-a-half younger than Rose. The two girls are inseparable, doing everything together from swimming to exploring to watching horror movies.

The summer begins normally enough. Rose and Windy fall right into their normal summer routines with their families. They swim, cook out, go for walks, explore, collect pebbles, shells, glass, and other small items. They talk about their summers, about how they both want to grow boobs, and about their adventures from past summers. As the girls begin to rent horror movies from Brewster’s, the lake town’s sole business, Rose quickly develops a crush on Duncan, a teenager who works there.

But not everything is so gentle. As time passes, Rose’s crush on Duncan grows. Rose and Windy spend more and more time at Brewster’s, during which time they hear local teenagers cursing, using words like “slut”, and talking about sexual things such as blow jobs. This causes Rose and Windy to reflect on how they might turn out one day. Rose, who knows her parents have been distant for about a year, is stunned to see that her parents not only actively argue, but that her father leaves to go home for a few days. It upsets her, and causes her to argue with her mother. Rose accuses her mother of never wanting to be happy, of always making others miserable, and that it should be her and not her father who has gone home for a few days.

Rose and Windy also come to learn about local drama as it unfolds. Duncan’s girlfriend, Jenny, is pregnant. Duncan is seen attempting to avoid his responsibilities time and time again, not wanting to go with Jenny to the doctor, disbelieving that she even is pregnant, and gossiping with his friends about the idea that the baby – if there is one – belongs to someone else. At the summer cottage, Rose’s father returns, but barely speaks to her mother.

As the summer draws to a close, Jenny finally confronts Duncan about his responsibilities. Duncan tells her to get lost. Meanwhile, Rose, Windy, and their families enjoy their final bonfire together. It is then that Rose discovers Jenny’s friends are looking for her. Rose sees a drunken Jenny sinking in the ocean, and screams for her mom. Rose’s mom rushes to the rescue, diving in to save Jenny from drowning. Later that night, Rose learns that her mother suffered a miscarriage while swimming the summer before – and so has not been right since. Rose and her mom come to peace with one another. Rose and Windy say good bye and look forward to next summer. Rose hopes she will have boobs by then.



Pages 1 – 65

Summary

Rose Abigail Wallace and her family vacation in Awago Beach every summer where they keep a cottage. They have done so for as long as she can remember. Awago Beach is a quiet vacation town. On the way, her dad jokes around about Rose being born at Estelle's Turkey Hatchery. At the cottage, Rose's dad wants to relax right away, but her mom wants to get settled in. Rose then goes to see Windy. Rose's dad tells her to be back by eight. Riding her bike, Rose finds a beautiful pebble which she brings along with her. Windy is a year and-a-half younger than Rose. They have been summer friends for years. Windy spends the summers in Awago with her grandmother and mother, Evelyn. They are thrilled to see Rose.

Rose and Windy hit the lake beach. Both have attended summer camp – Rose for art at her mom's university, Windy at Gaia's Circle, a music retreat where almost everyone's parents are lesbians. Rose and Windy kid one another about whether or not they have boyfriends. They go to Brewster's, which is one of two stores in Awago. The other is a bad pizza place open only on Thursdays and Fridays. While buying gummy feet and Twizzlers at Brewster's, Windy says she wants to go to hip hop camp next summer. The cashier, Duncan, begins referring to Windy as "Hip Hop". Rose and Windy see a girl named Jenny show up to hit on Duncan. Rose and Windy snack on their candy outside. They watch Duncan and Jenny make out.

Rose reveals that she collects pebbles because she has always done so with her dad. Her favorites are pebbles shaped like beans. Her mom reveals that Rose was once as small as a bean pebble, and was in her tummy. Rose reflects on also collecting milkweed fluff with Windy, wanting to eat them to grow wings. Rose's mom stopped them, telling them they were actually poisonous. Out on the beach with Windy again, Rose and Windy talk about how they hope to grow boobs. Because Windy is adopted, she doesn't know how big her boobs will be. The girls pretend to have breasts to shake, which earns the disapproval of a passing couple.

Back at Brewster's, Rose and Windy wonder if Jenny is Duncan's girlfriend. Duncan and one of his friends are waiting for Jenny and Sarah to arrive. Duncan's friend jokingly calls Jenny and Sarah sluts. Duncan says goodbye to Windy and Rose, calling Rose "Blondie" which makes Rose blush. Talking about sluts at Windy's cottage, Rose and Windy are overheard by Rose's mother and Evelyn. Their mothers do not like them using bad language, or referring to anyone as sluts. On the way home, Rose asks her mother if she wants to go swimming. Her mother declines. The next day passes well. Rose and Windy go swimming, relax, and enjoy vacation. Their families have dinner together.

Windy invites Rose over to watch a movie. Rose insists on renting a movie from Brewster's. Out front, some of the local girls are gossiping. Inside, Rose and Windy



want to rent “Texas Chainsaw Massacre”. Duncan pretends the girls are fifteen and lets them rent the movie. Rose and Windy overhear the girls outside talking about blowjobs. While watching the movie, Rose and Windy talk about blowjobs. Windy thinks she would give a guy a blowjob if she really loved him. Windy doesn’t think she could even then. Rose wonders about Duncan’s age. She thinks he must be about eighteen. Windy’s mom then walks in, horrified at what movie the girls are watching.

Analysis

“This One Summer” is a young adult graphic novel by Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki which follows young Rose Wallace as she navigates family difficulties, friendship, and local drama while on summer vacation at Lake Awago. Rose and her family have been coming to Lake Awago for years. It is a family vacation tradition. From the very start, family emerges as a central and important theme to the novel. The entire plot of the novel has family as its foundation as the trip to the lake is a yearly family ritual.

In addition to Rose’s family traveling to Lake Awago, family influences the novel in other ways. Through family, the past becomes a subtle theme. One of Rose’s favorite lake traditions is to collect small pebbles and other items – a hobby instilled in her by her father. Rose also reflects on how much closer her mother and her used to be, such as when her mother compared her to a tiny pebble inside her. Rose is also very close with Windy’s family. Windy’s mother, Evelyn, is something of a second mother to Windy. Windy, in turn, is very close with her mother.

Rose and Windy themselves are very close. They have been friends for as long as they can remember. It is through Rose and Windy that the theme of friendship becomes crucial to the novel. Rose and Windy do everything together from swimming and exploring to recalling old memories and watching horror movies. Though they are a year and-a-half apart in age, they are inseparable – almost like sisters. Their friendship will come to put them as observers in local drama as it unfolds, and will allow Rose and her mother to become decisive in that drama by the end of the novel.

Not everything is pleasant, however. Rose and Windy, through their time spent at Brewster’s, are exposed to foul and sexual language in person for the first time. These include the words “slut” and “blowjob”. The girls are familiar with the terms, but begin to use them freely the way that the teens they have seen do. In many respects, this begins the theme of coming of age as the girls are on the cusp of becoming teenagers. As teenagers, they will have to deal with more adult choices and situations, and will be exposed to more adult things – such as foul language.

Another such situation the girls find themselves confronted with is love. Love becomes a subtle theme through the relationship of Duncan and Jenny. The two are clearly into each other, as Rose and Windy can see. Rose herself begins to develop a summer crush on Duncan – and her puppy love for Duncan will blind her to Duncan’s true nature as the novel progresses. Meanwhile, the love between Rose’s parents seems to be strained. The two are not exactly on the same page, as simple things – such as Rose’s



dad wanting to relax upon first arriving at Awago, and Rose's mom insisting they all unpack and settle in first – become magnets for disagreement. This in turn serves as a bad omen for the future weeks at Awago.

Discussion Question 1

What is the friendship between Rose and Windy like at the beginning of the novel? How is the friendship between the two girls illustrated? What sorts of experiences do they have? How do they respond to these experiences?

Discussion Question 2

Every year, Rose's family comes to Lake Awago. Why does Rose look forward to vacations at Awago so much?

Discussion Question 3

Through the first section of the novel, Rose and Windy experience some things in person for the first time. What are these things they encounter for the first time? How do these things affect the girls? Why?

Vocabulary

incense, magic, knapsack, adopted, lame, peer pressure



Pages 66 – 130

Summary

Rose knows a little bit about sex based on school, from her second grade teacher getting pregnant to health class. Rose wonders if Duncan has had sex education classes. Windy comes over to listen to music, dance, and drink soda while Rose works on a birthday card for her mother. Windy wants to watch “Nightmare on Elm Street”. She stumbles across one of Rose’s mom’s books, “Making Baby Naturally” which Windy finds gross. The girls decide to play MASH. They write down the names of boys they like, including Duncan, to see what their futures hold. Windy begins calling Duncan “The Dud” because he is the kind of guy no girl should want. According to the game, Rose will marry Duncan, live in an apartment, and have one kid. Windy finds it hysterical.

Rose wonders about marrying Duncan as she heads to the beach. She imagines they’d both have good jobs, a nice apartment, and a beautiful baby. Rose and Windy go looking for pebbles in the dark. They scare themselves talking about horror movies. They hear laughter but do not follow it. Back at the cottage, Rose’s dad, Evan, enjoys listening to the band Rush. Rose and her parents have peach pie after dinner. After dessert, Rose reads Jules Verne’s “Journey to the Center of the Earth” while her father tries to be romantic with her mother in the kitchen. Rose’s mom accidentally drops a bowl, which causes her to become annoyed at her husband. Evan wonders why she doesn’t want to be close or have fun. She counters that after everything she has been through, why would she want to be away from her family. An argument breaks out which sends Rose into her room.

Rose’s father convinces her to come down to the beach. He tells her not to worry about the argument, that it is just adult junk that doesn’t matter. Rose knows that her mother tried to get pregnant two years before, but it didn’t work. Her mother has now stopped trying. Rose’s parents still argue about it. Rose thinks about how her mom taught her to open her eyes under water years before. When she tries it in the present, Windy says she looks like a dead person floating in the water. Rose and Windy talk about death as they swim. They decide to rent another horror movie, during which time Rose’s dad jumps up from the water and scares them.

Rose and Windy walk to Brewster’s, thinking about how bathing suits are essentially like underwear. Rose loses her patience with Windy when Windy keeps saying “kidding”, telling her that someday people will think she is kidding when she is not. At Brewster’s, Duncan calls the girls “the gruesome twosome” for their love of horror movies. Duncan tells them they must have nerves of steel. Rose decides on the movie “Jaws”. Duncan allows the girls to rent the movie for only a buck, telling them to bring the rest by later. It makes Rose happy. Sarah then appears in the store as Rose and Windy leave. They see Jenny crying in her car. Rose has to leave since her aunt and uncle are visiting. Windy says she’ll come back to Brewster’s later with the money to see what has happened.



Aunt Jodie and Uncle Daniel arrive for Rose's mom's birthday. Everyone is happy to see them. Daniel and Rose's dad prepare the grill. Rose uses Daniel's camera to take pictures all afternoon. She overhears her mom in the kitchen telling Jodie she is like a zombie, and that she wishes she could just disappear. Rose walks into the kitchen to get some soda, but because it is late, her mom will only let her have water.

Analysis

As the novel continues, so too does coming of age. Thinking about words like “slut” and “blowjob” causes Rose to reflect on what she herself knows about sex. Meanwhile, her crush on Duncan continues to grow. Rose begins to think about very adult things, such as marriage, work, and family – clear evidence that she is slowly beginning to grow up. (Interestingly enough, the reader should note that Windy begins calling Duncan “The Dud” because he is the kind of guy no girl should ever want. Windy is not blinded by puppy love.)

Rose must also grow up in other ways as well, as the disagreements between her parents become all-out arguments. Growing up includes realizing that not everything is always perfect, and that even married couples and parents have issues they must deal with. Indeed, Rose's father explains to her that what is going on between him and her mother is nothing more than “adult junk” that Rose shouldn't be worrying about. Nevertheless, Rose is worried. She loves her parents dearly, though she has become annoyed with her mother's distance.

Here, the theme of family can also be seen as Rose struggles to contend with the fact that her family feels as if it is falling apart. Family, thematically, also remains strong as Rose's aunt and uncle come to visit. It seems as if things are going quite well with them at first, but Rose overhears a conversation between her mother and her aunt. Rose's mother readily admits she feels like a zombie. The cause of Rose's mother's unhappiness is unknown, but it is clearly affecting both her marriage, and the family.

Family is not the only thing that begins to be tested in this section of the novel. The friendship between Rose and Windy is also being lightly tested. The year-and-a-half age difference between Rose and Windy has never been an issue before, but now, it is. Rose is coming of age more quickly than Windy, and her often juvenile actions – such as saying “kidding” over and over again – rubs Rose the wrong way. While the age difference between Rose and Windy might have otherwise been overcome, the arguments between Rose's parents exacerbate the problem. It is probable that Rose's impatience with Windy stems in large part not merely from the age difference, but from the arguments between her parents.

Discussion Question 1

How do the arguments between Rose's parents affect Rose? Why does her father tell her not to concern herself with the arguments? How does Rose respond? Why?



Discussion Question 2

There is some light friction that develops between Rose and Windy in this section of the novel. What is this friction? What are the probable causes of this friction?

Discussion Question 3

How do Rose and Windy come to view Duncan differently? Why?

Vocabulary

addictive, dud, proper, miserable, gruesome



Pages 130 – 201

Summary

Rose, her mother, father, aunt, and uncle, all hit the beach. Evan and Daniel play Frisbee. When Daniel tries to get Rose's mom, Alice, to swim, she pushes him over a beach chair. Alice storms off, followed by Evan. Alice flips him off. Daniel says he is tired of Alice's temper, and he and Jodie begin to argue. Rose goes swimming to get away. When she returns to the cottage, Jodie and Daniel have gone home. That night, she can hear her parents screaming at each other. The next day, Evan goes golfing while Alice stays in her room.

Windy comes over to visit. Windy reports that she thinks Jenny is pregnant while they watch "Jaws". Rose thinks Jenny is too young to be pregnant. The girls talk about pregnancy and adoption. Almost caught watching a horror movie by Evelyn, the girls go outside. They enter a run-down trailer park. Windy thinks Duncan lives there. They see a deer and chase it into the woods. They come across a fire pit and party spot, full of beer cans, a prescription pill bottle, and other trash. Rose finds a Niagara Falls stamped penny, and tells Windy it is probably where "it" happened.

The girls run to go swimming. They run past Duncan, who is nervously sitting on the steps of Brewster's checking his phone. Rose and Windy enjoy swimming. When Windy's grandmother arrives, Rose swims home along the shore. At the cottage, she learns her father is going back to the city for a few days. Rose doesn't want to be left alone with her mother. Two days pass. Rose takes comfort in hanging out with Windy. Windy's dad is working in Hawaii all summer. Rose asks if Evelyn will ever want another child. Windy says she does not. Windy asks if Rose wants to see the dances she learned at Gaia Camp. Rose agrees. Windy shows Rose how to krunk, which causes Rose to laugh hysterically. Evelyn's attempt to comfort Rose by telling Rose she can always talk to her causes Rose to leave.

At home, Rose sorts through all the pebbles and things she has found that summer, including beach glass and driftwood. Going to Brewster's, Rose overhears Duncan and his friend talking about sex and Jenny being pregnant. Duncan's friend insists Duncan call Jenny, but Duncan says Jenny might not even be pregnant. At home, Rose and Windy wonder if the baby is even Duncan's. They do their nails while watching "Friday the Thirteenth". The movie terrifies Rose, who runs rather than walks home afterwards.

Analysis

As the novel continues, the theme of family remains strong while Rose's family itself appears about to break. The visit of Rose's aunt and uncle ends in disaster as Rose's uncle attempts to get Rose's mother to loosen up. This causes an argument between Rose's mother and Rose's uncle, between Rose's mother and Rose's father, and



between Rose's aunt and uncle. The argument that night between Rose's parents is especially harsh. The next day, her parents do not spend any time with each other at all.

Within a couple of days, things become so bad between Rose's parents that her father decides to leave for home for a few days. Rose is absolutely stunned. Her fear of being left alone with her mother is apparent. Family has gone from being something warm and wonderful for Rose, to something dreaded and to be avoided. Rose's mother keeps to herself even after the departure of Rose's father. In many ways, Rose must now fend for herself as her mother spends much time in her bedroom.

As Rose continues to come of age through her experiences with her parents' arguments, she also comes to experience the drama that occurs among teenagers. It is a world of drama that she herself will be experiencing within a couple of years. Duncan has apparently gotten Jenny pregnant, which causes Rose and Windy to talk about pregnancy. It is something both girls will be confronted with in several years. Rose's crush on Duncan, however, prevents her from seeing the truth about Duncan's irresponsibility. Rose's blindness is a position from which she must endeavor to grow.

Rose also takes comfort from her parents' problems by investing herself in friendship with Windy and with the teenage drama going on in town. Windy and the teen drama take Rose's mind off of things by giving her something else to think about. The friction that had arisen between Rose and Windy appears to have diminished largely, and the girls have become inseparable once again despite a certain tenseness remaining between them. Nevertheless, they continue to get along.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Rose become so panicked when her father decides to go home for several days?

Discussion Question 2

How does Rose attempt to deal with the arguments between her parents, and her father's leaving? What does she do that seems to be most effective? Why?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Rose seem to be so blind when it comes to who Duncan really is as a person? Is it possible that Rose's blindness might extend to her mother as well? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

temper tantrum, impossible, hollering, permanently



Pages 202 – 259

Summary

It has now been four days that Rose's dad has been gone. Rose goes with Windy, Windy's mom, and Windy's grandmother to Historic Huron Heritage Village. Rose and Windy recall almost crying the first time they ever visiting the village when they saw the medicine man. In the present, Rose and Windy are annoyed by all the people who bring their kids to the attraction. Rose and Windy then see Jenny, dressed as a Huron woman, giving a talk to visitors. Some mean teenagers ask Jenny what the Hurons used for birth control. Several people tell them to stop. After Jenny concludes her talk, doing her best to keep a brave face, she rushes off by herself. Rose follows to see Jenny hugging an unknown guy, who tells Jenny that she will get the call she is waiting for. It upsets Rose.

It rains. Rose's mom tells Rose she didn't send her father away, but that her father wanted some time to himself. Rose doesn't want to hear it. She confronts her mom about still wanting a baby. Rose tells Alice that she doesn't want to be happy, and that it should be her and not Evan who went home. Rose then goes out in the rain to sit under an umbrella. A passing local warns Rose about sitting under an umbrella when it is storming out. Rose tells him not to tell her what to do. As the local passes, he says that some lessons need to be learned the hard way.

Rose spends the night at Windy's. The next morning, they wash their hair in the lake. Rose thinks that Jenny is cheating on Duncan. Windy thinks it may have been just a friend or a brother that Rose saw Jenny with. Rose thinks Jenny is a slut. Rose also thinks it's stupid that girls can't take care of their stuff and then ruin everything for everyone. Windy responds that Rose sounds sexist. Rose responds that she'd better watch what she says around Windy or Windy will be all offended. Windy then heads in to shore.

At Brewster's, Rose overhears Duncan and some friends talking. Duncan isn't thrilled about Jenny wanting him to go to the doctor's with her. His friends think she might be lying. Rose goes outside, realizing she has a crush on Duncan. In the back, she begins to write "I think she is cheating" on the dusty screen of an old arcade video game. Someone nearby starts yelling, causing Duncan to come out back to see what is going on. He then sees Rose, who begins to say she was at the Huron Heritage Village before rushing off. On the way out, she collides with one of Duncan's friends, skinning her knee.

Analysis

Family remains dominant thematically in this section of the novel. Rose remains at the lake beach with her mother, alone. It doesn't take long for things to spill over between



Rose and her mother. Rose and her mother end up having a fight where Rose accuses her mother of not wanting to be happy, and stating very plainly that her mother, rather than her father, should be the one who has gone home. It is the lowest point in the novel of the relationship between Rose and her mother, and is the most strained her family has been.

Not only do things get worse for Rose and her mother, but things continue to get worse for Jenny. It is through Rose's comprehension of the situation between Duncan and Jenny that her character maintains room for growth through the theme of coming of age. Duncan irresponsibly refuses to have anything to do with Jenny or her pregnancy. Rose is in disbelief, unable to accept that Duncan has made a mistake. Indeed, at Huron Heritage Village, she is almost hoping that Jenny is cheating on Duncan so that Duncan will be free and clear from the pregnancy. Rose is still blinded by her puppy love for Duncan.

As things with Rose's family spiral out of control, so too do things between Rose and Windy. Rose, the events concerning her family and Duncan both weighing on her mind, affect her attitudes toward her mother and Jenny. To Rose, her mother and Jenny need to be able to control themselves and stay level with the men in their lives. While the truth behind the distance between Rose's parents is as of yet unclear, the truth of the matter between Duncan and Jenny is clear.

Duncan has a responsibility that he is not living up to. To Rose, her mother is clearly a role model in that she seems to be the one not holding up her end of the marriage. To Rose, by transference, neither is Jenny. In another area from which Rose must grow, she must learn to consider that there are two sides to every story, and that what she first perceives may not be the truth.

Discussion Question 1

Why do Rose and Windy have such a disagreement over the use of the word "slut" and Jenny's part in the drama with Duncan? Do you believe Rose is correct in her attitude about Jenny? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Rose hope that Jenny is cheating on Duncan? Why do you believe she seems to be blind to the truth of things with Duncan and Jenny based on experiences with her mother?

Discussion Question 3

Why do Rose and her mother end up fighting? What is the result of this fight?

Vocabulary

historic, heritage, bawling, sexist, bundle



Pages 260 – 319

Summary

At the cottage, Rose discovers her father has returned – though he and her mother barely say anything to each other. Rose and Windy help Evan collect wood and kindling for a family bonfire. Things are still very tense between Rose and Windy. They are sent to Brewster's for marshmallows. A bunch of local teens are hanging out front. With no one at the register, the girls leave money and head out with marshmallows. Suddenly, Sarah and Jenny show up and confront Duncan. Jenny calls Duncan a douchebag. Sarah tells Duncan to man up and deal with his responsibilities. Duncan tells Jenny to go to the doctor and get proof.

Back on the beach, Rose and Windy return with marshmallows. Rose gets marshmallows on her hand, so she goes to the water to clean them off. It is then that she discovers Sarah, and several other friends looking for Jenny. Rose sees Jenny out in the water, apparently trying to commit suicide. Rose calls for her mom, who rushes into the water to save Jenny. At home later, Alice and Evelyn talk about what happened. Alice hopes Jenny wasn't trying to drown herself, but knows that Jenny was very drunk. Alice explains she hasn't been in the water since last year when she miscarried. Evelyn encourages Alice to tell Rose about what happened.

Rose finds Windy digging a hole on the beach, just because she can like they did when they were younger. Rose helps. They discuss how Jenny is in the hospital recovering. They also discuss how they both hope to have nice boobs in the future. Windy takes a picture of Rose in the hole. Rose returns movies to Brewster's to find Duncan is not working there. On the way home, Jenny's younger sister tells Rose to tell her mom thank you. Rose wonders if Jenny will have the baby, or if Duncan ever called.

Rose and Windy take time to smell the pine trees and the lake air, hoping to keep it with them all year. Windy buys Rose a parting gift of Twizzlers. Trying to move her suitcase, Rose discovers it is very heavy with all of the things she has collected over the summer. She leaves them behind on her bed. She looks forward to seeing Windy next summer. Windy says she'll see Rose and her massive boobs next summer. Rose hopes she will indeed have massive boobs.

Analysis

As the novel concludes, so too does the theme of coming of age. Rose has a rude awakening not only about Jenny and Duncan, but about her mother as well. Jenny's near-drowning awakens Rose to the understanding of the fact that Duncan has far more to do with things than previously considered. The argument between Duncan and Jenny, and the near-drowning of Jenny is what actually causes Rose's infatuation with



Duncan to break. First loves do not always end well. In Rose's case, the infatuation with Duncan is shattered by reality.

Rose's maturation comes not only through her recognition of who Duncan really is, but through the past as well. The past emerges as a strong theme at the end of the novel. Rose learns that her mother's unhappiness has little to do with being unable to get along with her father, or from her mother being unkind and cold, but from a miscarriage her mother suffered the year before. The past can have a strong hold on the present.

Rose's mom has not been able to move beyond the past. It is a hard and painful truth for Rose to accept that her mother is not wholly responsible for her feelings in this situation. Rose should have been more concerned about her mother's feelings – but the awakening Rose has paved the way for them to grow close once more. As a result, the theme of family emerges as central to the plot once more. The return of Rose's father, and the discovery of the truth by Rose mean that Rose's family has the potential to heal.

The distance that has grown between Rose and Windy also heals by the end of the novel. The girls have much more in common than they do not – including the drama between the local teens – and this helps to restore their friendship. Here, friendship becomes essential to the plot once more as the girls have always been unhappy about the end of their summer vacation – and have always looked forward to the next. The present time is no different. Both girls look forward to the next summer.

The reader should note, however, the scene where Rose leaves behind her pebble collection. The pebbles themselves are a part of the summer, a part of what will become the past. The pebbles represent not only Rose's past, but her family's past as well. The act of leaving the pebble collection behind is representative of Rose moving on beyond the past – and of leaving childhood behind. This in turn represents growth on the part of Rose's character, a symbol of her coming of age.

Discussion Question 1

What hard truth does Rose learn about her mother's past? Does Rose change, either in person or how she views and treats her mother as a result? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 2

Though Rose and Windy have grown apart, they ultimately come to patch things up. How does this happen? Why?

Discussion Question 3

For what reasons does Rose leave her pebble collection behind, both literally and metaphorically?

Vocabulary

hilarious, delusional, perfect, solstice, modern, weird



Characters

Rose

Rose Abigail Wallace is the main character of the novel “This One Summer” by Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki. Rose is the daughter of Evan and Alice Wallace, and the summer best friend of Windy. Each year, Rose and her parents vacation at Awago Beach. Rose loves to collect pebbles, a childhood hobby instilled in her by her father. About the age of eleven or twelve, Rose is thin, blonde, and intensely observant. Rose is largely inexperienced about the world of adults, but she is slowly leaving childhood behind. Though Rose and Windy are essentially inseparable, at several points throughout the novel, Windy’s more childish behavior annoys Rose. Rose herself develops her first real crush on a boy in the novel –Duncan, who works at Brewster’s.

Rose is dismayed to learn that her parents are frequently arguing seemingly due to her mother’s coldness. She is also unhappy to learn that Duncan’s girlfriend, Jenny, is pregnant. Rose hopes the baby belongs to someone else. Rose is rocked by four successive events: her father leaving for a few days after a particularly bad argument with her mother, an argument between Rose and her mother, an argument with Windy over the use of the word “slut”, and a dramatic showdown between Duncan and Jenny which results in Jenny nearly drowning herself. Only Rose, calling for her mother to save Jenny, prevents Jenny from drowning.

By the end of the novel, Rose comes to learn that her mother suffered a miscarriage the previous summer, and so has been sad and distant since then. Rose and her mother slowly begin to heal their relationship. Rose and Windy also make up, realizing they have far more in common than not, and that they have the next summer to look forward to. As the novel comes to a close, Rose leaves her pebbles behind when her family returns home. This is symbolic of Rose letting go of the past, and leaving childhood behind. She is now far more experienced in the ways of the world, and has had to deal with some very mature situations.

Windy

Windy is the best summer friend of Rose’s at Lake Awago. She is the adopted daughter of Evelyn and a father who is on business in Hawaii. Windy is a year and-a-half younger than Rose, is chubby, and has dark, short hair. Windy and Rose have known each other for years, and their families have become especially close over time. Windy and Rose are inseparable, though Windy’s more childish antics – such as use of the term “kidding” all the time – annoy Rose. Windy and Rose find themselves witnessing local drama between Duncan and his pregnant girlfriend, Jenny. Discussing the drama, Rose refers to girls like Jenny as sluts who can’t keep their acts together, which causes Windy to call Rose a sexist. This causes serious distance between the girls until the end of the



novel, when they both realize they have too much in common with each other to let their friendship go.

Evan

Evan Wallace is the father of Rose, and the husband of Alice. He is a thoughtful, kind, caring father who is deeply in love with his wife, though her withdrawn nature since her miscarriage has caused friction between them. Evan's attempts to be romantic with Alice are all stopped short by Alice. Frequent fights break out between Evan and Alice, which ultimately lead to Evan going back home for several days.

Alice

Alice Wallace is the mother of Rose, and is the wife of Evan. A college professor, Alice has been withdrawn and distant for the past year since the miscarriage she suffered. She is inconsolable, and her sadness is taking a toll on her marriage and on her relationship with Rose. Evan goes home for several days while Rose berates her mother for being so cold. When Jenny is drowning, it is Alice that Rose calls for, and Alice who rescues Jenny. Rose later learns about her mother's miscarriage, and by the end of the novel, Alice and Rose have slowly begun to repair their relationship.

Evelyn

Evelyn is the adoptive mother of Windy. Vegan, artistic, and eccentric, Evelyn is incredibly kind and warm, becoming like a second mother to Rose over the years. She has also become very good friends with Alice. Evelyn knows the truth about Alice's miscarriage, and she encourages Alice to be open and honest with Rose.

Aunt Jodie

Aunt Jodie is the aunt of Rose, wife of Daniel, sister of Alice, the sister-in-law of Evan. Aunt Jodie is a stunningly beautiful blonde, who deeply loves and worries for her sister, especially since the miscarriage. Jodie is highly defensive of Alice, which causes a severe argument between herself and Daniel, which in turn causes them to leave early.

Uncle Daniel

Uncle Daniel is the uncle of Rose, husband of Jodie, and brother-in-law of Alice and Evan. Daniel's attempts to get Alice to loosen up at the lake lead to arguments between himself and Alice and between himself and Jodie. As a result, Daniel and Jodie leave the lake early to go home.



Duncan

Duncan is a teenaged worker at Brewster's Store, and is the summer crush of Rose. Duncan is very irresponsible and cruel towards his pregnant girlfriend, Jenny. He fuels gossip about Jenny, wondering if the baby is his, or if there really even is a baby at all. Duncan finally drives Jenny over the edge, telling her to get proof of the pregnancy before they can talk.

Jenny

Jenny is the best friend of Sarah, and is the girlfriend of Duncan. She becomes pregnant by him. When she learns she is pregnant, she attempts to include Duncan and to get Duncan to hold up to his responsibilities, but Duncan refuses to do so. In one dramatic confrontation, he demands she gets proof. As a result, Jenny gets drunk and nearly drowns in the lake. Only Rose's mother manages to save Jenny.

Sarah

Sarah is the best friend of Jenny, and is dating one of Duncan's friends. When Jenny becomes pregnant by Duncan, Sarah sticks by Jenny's side, challenging Duncan and his irresponsibility. After a final dramatic confrontation, Jenny apparently wanders off drunk. Sarah's frantic search for Jenny alerts Rose, who sees Jenny in the water and calls for Alice.



Symbols and Symbolism

Pebbles

Pebbles and other small items such as driftwood, coins, and shells, have been collected since early childhood by Rose. It is a hobby instilled in her by her father. Rose enjoys the collection of pebbles and other odds and ends throughout each summer. Yet, in the present time, Rose decides to leave her collection of acquired pebbles behind. It is a highly symbolic act. The pebbles are seen a part of the summer, a part of what will become the past. The pebbles come to represent not only Rose's past, but her family's past as well – including her mother's miscarriage. The act of leaving the pebble collection behind is representative of Rose moving on beyond that past – and also of leaving childhood behind, as she is now on the cusp of being a teenager.

Horror movies

Horror movies are watched by Rose and Windy throughout the novel. They include such movies as "Jaws", "Friday the Thirteenth", and "Texas Chainsaw Massacre". The horror movies are not only a thrill for the girls (for their mothers oppose them watching such movies), but serve as an indication that the girls are getting older.

Twizzlers

Twizzlers are Rose and Windy's favorite kind of candy. They purchase Twizzlers at Brewster's store throughout the novel, snacking on them as they watch horror movies. Windy buys Rose an entire pack of Twizzlers as a parting gift when Rose and her family leave Awago Beach until the next summer.

Shampoo and conditioner

Shampoo and conditioner are used by Rose and Windy to wash and treat their hair. They use shampoo and conditioner while in the lake. It is while washing and treating their hair with shampoo and conditioner – a very feminine act – that Rose and Windy have a disagreement over the use of the word "slut", which Windy refers to as sexist.

Bikes

Bikes are the primary means of transportation for Rose and Windy during the novel. Rose uses her bike to get to and from Brewster's on a few different occasions. Duncan uses a bike to get to and from work. Many of the other locals in the novel ride bikes to get from place to place, including Duncan's coworker at Brewster's.



Books

Books are read in great numbers by Rose throughout her summer vacation. Rose loves to read. Among the books that Rose reads is Jules Verne's "Journey to the Center of the Earth", a tale of character growth as much as physical journey. The book mirrors "This One Summer", which is also a story of coming of age and character growth as much as actual learning and discovery about other people and other events.

Making Baby Naturally

"Making Baby Naturally" is a book about pregnancy, kept by Alice and found by Windy. The book is evidence that Rose's mother longs to have another baby. It is also evidence of Alice's sadness and sense of hopelessness following her miscarriage the previous summer.

Camera

A camera is brought along by Uncle Daniel when he and Aunt Jodie visit Rose and her family at Lake Awago. Rose is given the camera to take pictures. She wanders around for hours doing so. While taking pictures, she overhears her mother talking to Jodie about feeling like a zombie.

Marshmallows

Marshmallows are eaten by Rose and Windy, and are used in the creation of s'mores. On their last night at Awago, Rose and Windy's families have a bonfire. Rose and Windy are sent to Brewster's for marshmallows. It is while they are at Brewsters that they see Jenny confront Duncan over her pregnancy.

Ceramic bowl

A ceramic bowl is being washed and cleaned by Alice early in the novel when Evan attempts to become romantic with her. Alice drops the bowl, which shatters on the floor. The bowl becomes symbolic of the marriage between Alice and Evan, which itself is in danger of being shattered.



Settings

Awago Beach

Awago Beach is a fictional lakeside town and beach in an unidentified state in the United States of America. Awago Beach is a summer tourist town. The town itself is small, with only two stores to speak of – a pizza place, with bad pizza, is open only on Thursdays and Fridays; and Brewster's, something of a general store. Awago Beach's local residents are mostly kind, but many of the teenagers appear to be especially involved in drama because there is little else to do in the town. Awago Beach is home not only to houses, but to a trailer park as well. Much of the town is surrounded by pineland. Rose and her family visit Awago Beach for several weeks each summer. There, they own and stay in a cottage near the shore. Awago Beach is also visited each year by Windy and her family, and both her family and Rose's family do much together. Rose and Windy spend most of their time together, swimming and exploring Awago.

Brewster's

Brewster's is one of two stores in the town of Awago Beach. Brewster's is something of a general store, selling everything from food to renting DVDs. Brewster's is very much an old-time lakefront shop, built of wood with décor that is very outdated. Brewster's is a hangout for the local teenage population, who often become raucous and rowdy while visiting. This underscores the fact that there is little to do for local teens in the area. Brewster's is usually staffed by Duncan and one of his friends, and is visited regularly by Jenny and Sarah. Rose makes as many trips to Brewster's as possible, for she has developed a crush on Duncan.

The cottage

The cottage, located in Awago Beach, is owned and visited by Rose and her family in the novel. The cottage appears to be spacious with at least three bedrooms, a large living room, dining room, and kitchen. The cottage becomes the host of frequent arguments between Rose's parents, and is visited by Aunt Jodie and Uncle Daniel during the course of the novel. Rose has always been thrilled to be at the cottage, but not in the present. Rose does her best not to be at the cottage through the summer. In the end, when Rose and her family leave, Rose keeps her pebble collection behind, not wanting to bring it with her.

Awago Lake

Awago Lake is the lake at Awago Beach and town. The lake and its shore are the primary place that tourists go, including Rose, Windy, and their families. Rose and Windy love swimming in the lake, and being in the water. They love being in the water



so much that they even shampoo and condition their hair in the water. The lake is where Rose's mother suffered a miscarriage the year before, and where she saves Jenny from drowning in the present time.

The trailer park

The trailer park is where Duncan, and many of the local teenagers live and hang out. It is evidence of the economically depressed nature of the area, and reflects the less-than-reputable teenage population of Awago Beach. Rose and Windy stumble into the trailer park, coming upon it accidentally. They do not stay long, following a deer into the nearby pines, where they discover the party spot of some of the local teens.



Themes and Motifs

Family

Family is an important theme in the novel “This One Summer” by Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki. Family involves mutual love, compassion, loyalty towards, and emotional, spiritual, and physical support of individuals who may or may not be blood-related, but who still behave in the fashion of the traditional family unit. In the novel, family proves to have fewer redeeming moments than it has positive influence on Rose’s life.

Rose’s family visits Awago Beach every year. These yearly summer visits are in keeping with the positive nature of family, as Rose and her parents get out of the city every summer for a couple of weeks. It is something that they do together – but the past year has been difficult. Rose knows her parents have been straining against one another, with her mother’s coldness being the source of friction between them. Indeed, Rose herself feels alienated because of her mother’s distance. Windy’s relationship with her mother, however, is quite different.

Attempts made by Evan to romance Alice throughout the novel are rebuffed. On one such occasion, Alice accidentally drops and shatters a dish, a symbolic foretelling of what could happen to the family. The arguments between Alice and her husband only worsen. They are temporarily abated when Uncle Daniel and Aunt Jodie visit. Rose is thrilled to see her family, but Daniel’s attempts to get Alice to loosen up end up in massive arguments. Daniel and Jodie leave early; Rose’s parents now argue worse than ever before. Things get so bad that Evan ultimately decides to go home for a couple of days.

Rose is terrified to be left behind with her mother. On at least one occasion, Rose goes to bed without dinner because her mother is so despondent and distant. Eventually, things come to a head between Rose and her mother. Rose accuses her mother of not wanting to be happy, and says that it should be her, not Evan, who has gone home for several days. Rose and her mother remain very distant from one another after the argument.

Following the confrontation between Jenny and Duncan, it is Rose who finds Jenny drowning. Rose calls for her mother’s help, who rushes into the water to save Jenny. Rose later learns that her mother’s coldness and distance are due to a miscarriage suffered the previous summer. While the relationship between Rose and her mother remains cool, it is not as bad as it was now that Rose has a better understanding of what her mother is going through. The potential is there for the family’s state as a whole to improve.

Rose’s family troubles are contrasted sharply by Windy’s familial relationship. Windy and her mother get along incredibly well, and are incredibly close. Indeed, Windy



explains that even though she is adopted, her mother doesn't want to adopt any more children since Windy is everything her mother wants. At the same time, Evelyn becomes something of a second mother to Rose, ensuring Rose is well-cared for while Rose is visiting. Rose recognizes the warmth and love in Evelyn, and so the distance between her and her own biological mother is striking.

Friendship

Friendship is an important theme in the novel "This One Summer" by Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki. Friendship is definitive to the plot and to the time that Rose spends in Awago Beach. Primarily, it is Rose's friendship with Windy that influences and helps to direct the story. In most ways, friendship proves to be an immensely important and positive thing.

Rose and Windy have been best summer friends since either girl can remember. Their favorite part of summering at Awago is seeing one another. They are inseparable. They swim together, explore together, visit Brewster's together, and watch horror movies together. Rose and Windy become witnesses to local teenage drama between Duncan and Jenny. This occurs because the two visit Brewster's to rent DVDs and buy candy together. The drama binds them together as co-witnesses, and gives them something to talk about in addition to their own lives.

However, events beyond Rose and Windy's friendship begin to negatively affect their friendship as the novel continues. The drama between Rose and her mother comes to give Rose a negative view of women in general. Her mother is cold and distant, and despite the reason, Rose believes her mother should be more caring and sympathetic towards her and her father. The drama between Duncan and Jenny over Jenny's pregnancy is considered dumb by Rose. Rose, blinded by her puppy love for Duncan, can only fault Jenny for what has happened.

Rose comes to refer to Jenny as a slut as the novel progresses. Her poor relationship with her mother, the poor state of her family, and her blind loyalty to Duncan, all cause her to lash out at Jenny and women in general. This is disconcerting to Windy, who challenges Rose on the point, calling Rose's attitude sexist. This leads to a falling-out between the two girls, who remain cold toward one another until the end of the novel.

Their friendship, though strained, does not break, and returns to normal by the time that Rose and her family leave Awago. Rose and Windy realize they have too much in common, and realize that their friendship is not worth losing over a single disagreement. They are both shaken by Jenny's near-drowning, and are able to find comfort in one another against such a near-tragedy. Ultimately, Rose and Windy have repaired their friendship, and look forward to seeing one another in the following year.



Coming of Age

Coming of age is an important theme in the novel “This One Summer” by Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki. Coming of age involves the personal, spiritual, moral, or emotional growth and maturation of an individual often based on real world experiences, events, or mistakes. In the novel, it is Rose who comes of age against the backdrop of family and local drama.

When the novel begins, Rose is a relatively inexperienced girl. She has had a stable and secure upbringing, but has had little true trial in her life. As a result, she is to some degree both naïve and assumptive about the things that go on in her life. The stage for first personal experiences come in a mild way through the teenagers who hang out at Brewster’s. Rose and Windy hear sexual slang being used in person for the first time. They in turn use and discuss the sexual slang.

At Brewster’s, Rose develops her first real crush on Duncan. This puppy love is a first for Rose, for it blinds her to the truth of many things about Duncan. The local teens unveil drama as time passes, in the form of Duncan having impregnated Jenny. As a result of Rose’s crush on Duncan, Rose does not blame Duncan for what happened, and ignores his responsibility in favor of blaming Jenny for what went on. It is a place from which her character must – and ultimately does – grow. Rose recognizes the seriousness of the situation, and how Duncan is not who she thought he was, between the argument he has with Jenny and Jenny’s near-drowning. It is a hard lesson learned for Rose who must accept that consequences come with choices.

At the same time, Rose has been absolutely unforgiving with her mother. Alice has, for the past year, been cold and distant from Rose and her father. Here, there is some justification for Rose’s unhappiness with her mother’s behavior, but that Rose does not attempt to get to the root of her mother’s unhappiness, and that her mother does not attempt to share, does not help the situation. Only through discovering that her mother suffered a miscarriage the previous year does Rose soften her stance toward her mother. She has learned another hard lesson about judging people too quickly or too extensively.

Rose’s friendship with Windy is also nearly ruined by Rose’s rush to judgment and poor opinion of females in general. Windy’s challenging of Rose’s opinion, and Rose’s rash reaction, cause the girls to grow distant. Yet, Rose and Windy do not allow their friendship to come undone. They know that they have too much in common to let go of, and already are looking forward to the next summer. By the novel’s end, Rose has learned to form judgments much more carefully, to understand that there are two sides to every story. She is much more accepting and forgiving, and is aware of the effect of choices and consequences. The final scene where Rose leaves behind her pebble collection is symbolic not only of Rose leaving behind the past, but childhood as well.



The Past

The past is an important theme in the novel “This One Summer” by Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki. The past –essentially, recent and distant events and history – has a strong bearing on the present in the novel. It largely determines the present and the choices that many characters make.

When the novel begins, the past is readily apparent to the reader. Rose explains that her family has been coming to Awago Beach for years. The trip is a family tradition, so the past – each trip to Awago Beach – matters in the present. As Rose and Windy spend time together, they recall events of the past, such as the horror stories their mothers used to tell. They have always enjoyed the summers in the past, and they look forward to the summer in the present as well.

As the novel unfolds, the past continues to impact the present. Rose has been unhappy with her mother’s coldness and distance, as has her father, Evan. Rose’s family is on the rocks as Alice continues to be withdrawn and emotionally distant. Rose becomes increasingly annoyed with her mother, and heartbroken at the arguments that break out between her parents. As Rose comes to learn, the past is directly influencing the present. One year ago, Rose’s mother suffered a miscarriage, and has not felt right emotionally ever since.

As the novel comes to a close, Rose comes to understand that nothing will ever be the same again. Past experiences at Awago Beach will be forever overshadowed by the present summer, and the present summer will ultimately become the past. The things that Rose has collected that summer – her memories – become symbolized by the pebbles that she has collected, and has chosen to leave behind at the cottage. Here, Rose is letting go of her childhood, and of the past, and is looking forward to the future. She will not be weighed down by the past now that she is able to move beyond it.

Love

Love is an important theme in the novel “This One Summer” by Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki. Love in the novel is both of the familial kind and romantic love. It is romantic love that influences two important subplots in the novel.

The first and most dramatic form of romantic love is that of the love between Duncan and Jenny. When the novel begins, the two are seemingly into each other. Rose and Windy watch them kissing and referring to each other sexually. However, whatever romantic feelings exist between the two do not survive Jenny’s pregnancy. Duncan immediately divests himself of Jenny when he learns that she is pregnant. It is irresponsible and demonstrates that perhaps Duncan was not in love with Jenny after all – or, if he was, he was unprepared for the consequences of intimate relations.

Rose, interestingly enough, develops a crush on Duncan early on. Rose’s puppy love for Duncan ultimately blinds her to both Duncan’s irresponsibility and true nature, and to



the responsibility he has toward Jenny. Indeed, Rose is more or less rooting for Duncan in hoping that Jenny has had an affair, and the baby belongs to someone else. Only the final confrontation between Duncan and Jenny, and Jenny's near drowning, are enough to jolt Rose awake from her idealized and romanticized vision of Duncan.

The other area romantic love occurs in the novel is between Rose's parents, Evan and Alice. Evan clearly loves Alice, for he recognizes that she is in pain due to the miscarriage, and he endures her constant rejections of his romantic and sexual advances. She is denying Evan even simple intimacy, and Evan has refused to leave her. Things become strained, but their marriage, because of their love for one another, endures.

Styles

Point of View

Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki tell their novel “This One Summer” from the point of view of main character, Rose, who provides minimal narration. Because the events of the summer are the firsthand experiences of Rose, it is only fitting that Rose should narrate the story. Everything comes to be seen through Rose’s perspective, from her friendship with Windy to the drama between Duncan and Jenny to Rose’s mother’s miscarriage. The reader is able to see firsthand how Rose herself comes of age, and how she changes through the various experiences she has as a result.

Language and Meaning

Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki tell their novel “This One Summer” in language that is simple and straightforward, and in illustrations printed in shades of purple. This is done for three reasons. First, the illustrations in the novel reflect the fact that the book is a graphic novel, and requires illustrations to be told. Secondly, the simple and straightforward language used in speech balloons and panels is reflective of the young age and education of Rose. Third, the simple and straightforward language is also reflective of the fact that the novel’s target audience is geared toward older children and young adults – and the language employed is reflective not only of their age, but their level of education as well.

Structure

Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki structure their novel “This One Summer” as one long flowing narrative told in words and illustrations. Words are used sparingly, while illustrated sequences can speak more to the story than words otherwise would have been able to. Some pages are composed entirely of a single illustration, and few if any words. This long, flowing, and uninterrupted method of structuring the novel is that of stream-of-consciousness, where instances, events, thoughts, and feelings all run together. In so doing, stream-of-consciousness becomes reflective of memory as well, where different parts of the past often become jumbled together as one. The events of the novel are not all individual memories, but part of a longer, larger summer vacation with ties them all together.



Quotes

Awago Beach is this place where my family goes every summer. Ever since like... forever.

-- Rose (Section 1, Pages 6-8 paragraph 1)

Importance: As the novel begins, Rose explains the context for the events to come. Awago Beach trips during the summer are a Wallace family tradition. It is during these trips that Rose spends time with her best summer friend, Windy.

Why bother coming up here if all you want is to get as far away from us as possible?

-- Evan (Section 2, Page 100 paragraph 4)

Importance: As Rose and her family settle into their cottage, arguments break out between her parents. Alice continues to reject all forms of intimacy, romantic, emotional, and sexual. Evan has finally had enough, and confronts her, asking her why she has bothered to come if she is trying to keep her distance from them. It is a fair question to ask, but one which there is no truly easy answer.

So. Last summer she stopped. Trying or whatever. But they still fight about it. Like it's still there.

-- Rose (Section 2, Pages 109-110 paragraph 6)

Importance: Rose reveals that her parents have, until last summer, been trying to have a baby. This appears to be the conflict between the two – that Evan wants another baby, but Alice doesn't. As Rose will come to learn, this only scratches the surface about the truth of the previous summer.

I wish I could just... disappear.

-- Rose's mom (Section 2, Page 129 paragraph 1)

Importance: Rose overhears her mother and her Aunt Jodie talking about the past. Rose is stunned to hear how sad and depressed her mother feels, to the point that she wishes she could just disappear. Rose is also angered because she and her father have always tried to be loving toward Alice. Nevertheless, there is a reason why Alice feels the way she does, one which will be revealed by the end of the novel.

You're just going to leave me? Alone? With her?

-- Rose (Section 3, Page 165 paragraph 1)

Importance: Things have gotten so bad between Rose's parents that Rose's father decides to leave for a couple of days. Things have likewise gotten so bad between Rose and her mother that Rose doesn't want to be left alone with her mother. It is a terrifying prospect for Rose to be without her father in the presence of her mother, and demonstrates just how bad Rose's relationship with her mother has gotten.



I thought that things would get back to normal. I guess they sort of are. Except they're not talking.

-- Rose (Section 4, Page 270 paragraph 1)

Importance: When Rose's father returns, normalcy still escapes the family. Though Rose's father is back, her parents are barely speaking to one another. Having both parents back together is almost as bad as having them apart. They might as well still be apart, Rose knows, because things are so far removed from normal.

Mom!

-- Rose (Section 5, Page 290 paragraph 4)

Importance: When Rose discovers that Jenny is drowning, the first person she calls on is one of the people she has been harshest towards – her mom. Her mom, owing to her love and motherly instincts, comes running. When she is alerted by Rose that Jenny is drowning, Alice plunges into the lake to rescue Jenny.

But Alice. You should tell her.

-- Evelyn (Section 5, Page 301 paragraph 3)

Importance: After saving Jenny, Alice and Evelyn stay up late to talk. Rose eavesdrops and discovers the truth about her mother's coldness and distance – her mother suffered a miscarriage the year before. It is a wake-up call to Rose. Evelyn insists that Alice tell Rose, but Alice is noncommittal it seems. Whether or not Evelyn ever tells Rose is left uncertain.

I wanted to have this perfect picture of Awago in my head.

-- Rose (Section 5, Page 302 paragraph 3)

Importance: Drawing on the theme of the past, Rose reflects on how she has always had a perfect picture of Awago Beach in her mind due to other summers spent at the lake. In the present, there can no longer be any new such perfect memories. Only in small bits and pieces can the present summer be compared to the past summer, such as when Rose and Windy are digging a hole in the sand, just because they can.

Jenny says 'thank you'.

-- Jenny's sister (Section 5, Page 309 paragraph 1)

Importance: While walking home from Brewster's, Rose encounters Jenny's younger sister. Jenny's younger sister tells Rose to thank her mother on Jenny's behalf for saving Jenny's life. It is a bit of a humbling experience for Rose, who has had such a bad opinion of her mother for most of the novel.

I wonder if that means she'll have the baby.

-- Rose (Section 5, Page 310 paragraph 2)

Importance: When Rose learns that Jenny is going to be okay, she wonders if Jenny



will have the baby she has been trying to get Duncan to take responsibility for. Here, there is a note of irony in that Evan and Alice had desperately wanted to have another baby, while Duncan wants nothing to do with the baby that Jenny is going to have.

Boobs would be cool.

-- Rose (Section 5, Page 319 paragraph 1)

Importance: The novel ends on a lighthearted note. Throughout the novel, Rose and Windy have joked and talked about growing boobs one day. Both girls look forward to their next summer together, and both girls hope they'll have boobs by then.