



When Sam's best friend Reagan dies after her heart suddenly gives out, Sam must learn to deal with her grief and ultimately discover who she is without her best friend by her side.

Praise

Junior Library Guild
Selection

★ "This story of grief rings true at every juncture....A slam dunk of a debut."
- *Booklist* starred review

"A realistic, convincing, and moving debut portrait of grief and friendship ..."
- *Kirkus Reviews*

FADEAWAY

By Maura Ellen Stokes

Discussion Questions

1. What comes to mind when you think of the word "fadeaway"? Why do you think the author chose this title?
2. The story deals with the death of a close friend. What other types of losses do people in the story experience, and what difficulties do they present?
3. Everyone processes grief differently. Can you think of ways that other people might process grief differently than Sam?
4. Sam deals with her own identity in this story. Provide examples of that. What issues does she identify in herself, and how does she strengthen her identity? Can you think of other ways that students deal with and express their identities?
5. Helping someone deal with their sorrow is hard. Can you think of examples where other characters in the story tried to help Sam deal with her grief? Can you give examples of failure and successes?
6. Running, working out, and playing basketball helped Sam cope with her stress. What are things you do to get you through tough times?
7. Sam's sense of humor never quite leaves her. Give examples where it helped Sam get through the day.
8. Reagan 'comes back' to help Sam get back on track with her life. What are some interactions with Dead Reagan that helped Sam? How?
9. Sam and Kevin have an unlikely friendship—she is an athlete and he is an artist. Do you have any friends that are completely different from you? What drives the friendship?
10. Sam is a good student, but she gets herself into a bind academically. But she gets her act together and brings up her grades. Can you think of a time when you've gotten behind on something and had to make up for it? How did you manage that?
11. There are numerous settings in the book: basketball court, golf course, Elliot Park, and so on. Pick one setting and discuss how it adds to the story. How does it reinforce the mood?