

READER'S GUIDE FOR  
SAND DOLLAR SUMMER BY KIMBERLY K. JONES  
SIMON & SCHUSTER/ MARGARET K. MC ELDERRY BOOKS

- Think about the relationships in the book, how they change and why they change.
  - How is Lise's relationship with her mother similar and different to other mother/daughter relationships?
  - How about her relationship with her brother?
  - Why is Lise distrustful of Michael?
- Lise and Free's mother seems to retreat from them once she returns to the place she grew up. Why do you think this is so? Did it mean she loved them any less?
- What choices get made in Sand Dollar Summer? By whom?
- There are several episodes in the book that illuminate the characters and their relationships. Discuss what the shoplifting incident and the way Big Buns' behavior is handled tell you about the characters.
- What role did location play in this story? How do the ocean, the island and sand dollars go beyond their normal everyday meanings and act as symbols?
- Lise is a feisty, sometimes prickly, child. What is likeable about her, what isn't, and why?
- Do you think it's true that the way we know the most important things is "we just know"? Why or why not?
- Ben says "everybody has their own sharks." What do you think that means? What are your sharks?
- Has a mere second ever changed your life? Did you make any choices about how you would react to those changes?
- What does Fiddle Beach look like in your mind? Draw or model it from the descriptions in the book. Then look at the map that Kim made while she was writing Sand Dollar Summer [here](#).