

Summer Reading Packet: *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*

Please answer the questions below in complete sentences on loose leaf paper as you read the novel.

Chapters 1-3:

1. Describe Steven's relationship with Jeffrey at the very beginning of the novel.
2. What clues suggest that there is something seriously wrong with Jeffrey?
3. How does Steven react when he first hears the news about Jeffrey?

Chapters 4-6:

4. Explain why Steven feels guilty after Jeffrey's diagnosis.
5. How has the Alper family dynamic started to change?
6. Why do you think Steven keeps Jeffrey's illness a secret at school?

Chapters 7-9:

7. What promises does Steven try to make after his little brother becomes sick?
8. Explain what we as readers learn about Annette in these chapters.
9. Why are Steven's grades beginning to suffer?

Chapters 10-12:

10. Explain how Steven felt when he went to go stay with his grandparents.
11. What is Steven worried about for his family with everything they are going through?
12. Describe how Steven's emotions are changing.

Chapters 13-15:

13. What advice does Mrs. Galley give Steven? Explain how this advice results in his actions in chapters 14-15.
14. Explain Steven's choice regarding his drum lessons.
15. How does Jeffrey react to Steven's decision in chapter 15?

Chapters 16-18:

16. How does Jeffrey react to Steven being in Philadelphia?
17. Compare Samantha and Jeffrey. How are their situations similar, and how are they different?
18. How are Annette and Renee helping Steven's family?

Chapters 19-21:

19. What important decision does Steven make at the band concert?
20. How has Steven changed throughout the course of the novel?
21. What did you think of the ending of the book? If you could change any part of the ending, what would you change?

Once you are done reading the book, please write a paragraph that explains the biggest lesson Steven learns throughout the novel. Use at least TWO pieces of evidence from the story to support your answer.