

Discussion Guide

About the Author:

Margaret Willey has written numerous books for readers of all ages during a career that spans decades. She is the recipient of the Charlotte Zolotow Award, and her novels have been recognized by the ALA for excellence. She lives in Michigan with her husband. Visit her online at www.margaretwilley.com.



Four Secrets

Margaret Willey

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margaret willey

*"To you the idea to kidnap
Chase Dobson might
seem like a mistake.*

*But to us... we were
just trying to stop him
from being so...evil.
We just...we had
to stop him.*

*No one helps kids like
us. Not at my school. We
aren't the important kids.
We knew it wouldn't stop
unless we stopped
it ourselves."*



Katie, Nate, and Renata had no farther to fall down the social ladder. But when they hit bottom, they found each other. Together, they wanted to change things. To stop the torment.

So they made a plan. One person seemed to have everyone's secrets—and all the power. If they could stop him...

But secrets are complicated, powerful things. They are hard to keep. And even a noble plan to stop a bully can go horribly wrong.

Topics for Discussion:



1. What is a GreyMount? Why do you think Nate calls Katie and Renata his GreyMounts?
2. Why are Katie and Nate so protective of Renata?
3. Why does Nate call Chase the Master of Contortions? Why does he call his mother the Queen of Shadows?
4. Why do you think Renata believes Chase when he tells her that none of them are going to get in trouble?
5. Why does Mrs. Havenga disapprove of Katie's friendship with Renata?
6. What clues does Renata work into her drawings?
7. Why do you think Coach Collier neglected to try harder to stop Chase and his friends from bullying Renata?
8. Nate and his sister both accuse each other of lying about their family. Why do you think the siblings distrust each other?
9. Why do you think Chase wanted to stay with Nate, Katie, and Renata instead of going home?
10. Nate's mother refuses to visit him, Renata's parents say they'll visit eventually, and Katie's mom stops showing up after her first few visits. Discuss each of the reasons these different parents have for their absences from the juvenile detention center.
11. What do you think Renata means when she says she and Chase have something in common?
12. Discuss the reasons that Katie, Nate, and Renata each had for making their pact.
13. What do you think will happen to Katie, Nate, and Renata after the charges are dropped and they're allowed to go home? How do you think their friendship will be impacted by knowing each other's secrets?
14. Discuss the impact that bullying has on Katie, Nate, and Renata. Have you ever witnessed bullying at your school or in your community? If so, what impact has it had on you, your classmates, and your school or community?