



# Colorado Book Club Resource

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SETTING FREE THE KITES BY ALEX GEORGE

1. Robert and Nathan are very different boys. Why do they like each other so much?
2. When the boys set free the kites on the beach, they react in very different ways. What do their reactions tell us about them as characters?
3. “Nathan Tilly’s boundless gift for hope gave us wings.” What role does hope play in the novel?
4. The novel begins and ends in the present, but most of the action takes place forty years in the past. Why do you think the author chose to structure the story in this way?
5. Both Robert and Nathan suffer terrible loss during the course of the book, but of a very different kind. Nathan’s loss is sudden and violent; Robert’s is drawn-out and inevitable. How does the nature of the loss affect the way each boy responds to it?
6. Robert’s parents have very different approaches to Liam’s illness and, after his death, very different ways of dealing with their grief. How much of that is due to Mary’s faith and how much is due to other things?
7. Why is an amusement park a good setting for this story? What associations do you have with amusement parks, and do you find those elements represented in this novel? Did the novel make you think about parks in a new or different way?
8. As the object of both Nathan and Robert’s desires, Faye is poised to become the romantic heroine of the novel, and yet she doesn’t. How does the story avoid becoming one about teenage crushes and early love?
9. There are many different kinds of stories in the novel: love stories, ghost stories, war stories, and so on. What purpose do these tales serve? How do they complement the novel’s main story?
10. Did you like the epilogue? Why, or why not?

*Questions from [randomhouse.app.box.com](http://randomhouse.app.box.com)*



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