

1. One of the things that Lee appreciates most about her friends is their ability to “sit in silence with one another.” Why is that important to her?
2. Lee chose to keep the truth to herself for three years. Is it fair for her to speak up now?
3. How does the narrative structure, a series of letters, flashbacks, and memories, either reveal or obscure what really happened?
4. The story of the shooting is told six different times, once by each survivor. Why do you think we get Denny’s perspective first—an eyewitness account that employs every sense but sight to describe what happened?
5. What is the significance of the shooter never being named—and that the story is never told from his view?
6. Compare and contrast the two different dinner scenes in the McHale home.
7. Lee blames herself for the confusion over what happened. Was there anything more she or an adult could have done or was the misinformation/miscommunication inevitable? Why?
8. What does Lee ultimately decide about telling the truth by using the letters from other people? Why does she come to that decision? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?
9. Much like Lee has been staying quiet about what happened three years ago, so has Miles. Is Miles right to think that he’s not the hero everyone believes him to be? Does knowing his story change who Miles is as a person? What would you have done if you were Miles?
10. Compare and contrast the official version of the shooting with one of the survivors other than Lee. How different are those versions of the story? How are they the same? Can either one be considered the true version of what happened?