

# Discussion Guide Questions for *The Astonishing Maybe* by Shaunta Grimes



## ABOUT THE BOOK:

How far would you go to discover the truth?

Gideon hates the idea of moving to Nevada from the East Coast. It's so empty and hot in his new neighborhood. Only one person his age lives nearby: the girl next door, Roona.

Gid notices right away that Roona is . . . different. She wears roller skates and a blanket as a cape when she needs to feel strong. What he doesn't bargain for, however, is how far outside his comfort zone Roona will take him as she enlists his help in finding her long-gone father. For a kid who's not allowed to ride his bike more than a few blocks from home, this will be the adventure of a lifetime.

Here are a few questions to help begin a discussion about **THE ASTONISHING MAYBE**:

1. When the book begins, Gideon has just moved to Nevada from the East Coast. He describes how different his new home is from his old one. List things that you'd expect to be different in Nevada (weather, terrain, architecture, etc.). Describe a move you've made and what it was like. If you haven't moved, describe what you think it entails.
2. Besides the fact that Gid's new neighbor, Roona, wears roller skates and a blanket as a cape, why else is Gid disappointed when he first sees her? What do you think he hoped for in his neighbors?
3. Gideon's family has a lot of rules. Which ones do you think are too harsh, and why? Are any of his family's rules similar to your own?

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED:

4. Roona believes her mother's baking has magical qualities that affect the moods of recipients. Do you believe this is true? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think Roona decides to take the journey to find her father once Gid moves next door? Why hasn't she done it sooner?
6. Gid and Roona travel by bus. Have you and your family ever taken a long bus trip? Do you think it would be safe to do without adults accompanying you? What is the biggest challenge that Gid and Roona face on this trip?
7. Were you surprised by what Roona finds out about her father? Given their background, why do you think Roona was so intent on reuniting with him?
8. Roona is concerned about her mother's health. What has contributed to her mother's "illness," and what do you believe is best for Roona?
9. Gid's family is very tight-knit, almost perfect. How realistic is the depiction of his family? Are there aspects of his family that are similar to your own?
10. How would you describe Gid and Roona's friendship? What do they learn about themselves and each other by being friends?

