

Waves of Light

Discussion Guide



About the Book:

After struggling to fit into a new town and school, Sadie faces questions about her faith, family, and friendships, questioning all she has come to believe. Sadie's life is spinning out of control. Her friend moved away, her mom remains ill, and her dad wants to leave town. At least the play Sadie is helping produce appears to be going well. After all, she gets to create the sets with her art teacher's help. But even that falls apart when a flash flood destroys her teacher's home and art. How can she trust or even believe in a God who would allow all this? God isn't fair. With everything crumbling and her faith on the edge, Sadie must find strength in the God she's questioning in order to hold on in the midst of her struggles.

To Discuss:

1. Have you ever taken a road trip? Who did you go with? What was your favorite part of the trip?
2. Frankie and Sadie plan out their mural together and paint it. Have you ever created a project with a friend? How did it turn out? What did you like about collaborating, and what was hard?
3. Sharing the things you believe, the ideas that you're passionate about and that you base your life on, can't help but be terrifying. In *Waves of Light*, Sadie finds herself in a moment where sharing her faith is the right thing to do. She's in an authentic friendship with Frankie, and it's a moment where Frankie is open to hearing what Sadie has to say. What about you? Have you ever had the chance to share authentically with a friend in this way? How do you know the time is right? What do you do when someone misunderstands, as Frankie almost did?
4. When Sadie and Vivian come home and find Vivian's house destroyed, Sadie is devastated. It might even be harder for her that this has happened to Vivian than if it had happened to her. Have you ever had a situation where a friend has been hurt, badly, and you didn't know how to help? What did you do? Is there something you would do differently now that you've had more time to think about it?
5. Sometimes when a new person joins our group of friends, the balance of friendship changes. Have you ever had the experience of friendships changing? How have you dealt with the changes?
6. Annabelle worries about her weight and what she eats. Her friends are worried about her and want to help, but aren't sure what to do. What advice would you give them about how to best help Annabelle?
7. If you could live through one scene in the book, which one would you choose?
8. What do you think of the title, *Waves of Light*? Do you think it fits the book?

Naomi Kinsman

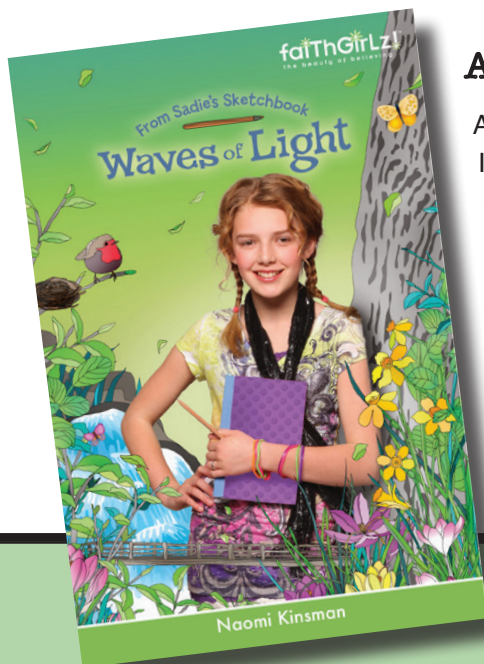
Extension Activities:

Your Own Fairy Tale:

Penny's original fairy tale explores questions and issues she's facing. Historically, even though fairy tales are often considered to be tales for young children, the stories themselves explore important themes and ideas. Cinderella, for instance, explores the nearly universal wish to be able to wave a magic wand and change one's life circumstances without having to go through the difficult process of changing life one step at a time. How about you? What issues and challenges do you struggle with in your own life? Can you make the question, challenge or theme into a metaphor and write a story about it? One of the hidden benefits of making a fairy tale from one's own life is that you see the situation in new light. Share the story with a trusted friend or family member and talk about what you learned or noticed. Do you see new options or solutions or steps you can take to move forward?

A Collaborative Mural

With a friend, or a group of friends, choose a large surface to make into a work of art! Like Sadie and Frankie, choose a theme and collaborate to make the mural entirely your own. Maybe you can create this work of art on an actual wall, the way Frankie and Sadie did, but if your parents aren't keen for you to paint your walls, you can always cover the wall with butcher paper and create the work of art in a more temporary way. If you create the work on the wall, use colored pencils, pastels or another medium that is sure not to bleed through. Alternatively, you can create your work of art outside with a tarp underneath and bring it inside to hang when it is dry.



About the Author:

Author of the *From Sadie's Sketchbook* series and *Spilled Ink*, the award winning Inklings Writer's Notebook, Naomi is passionate about sharing her love of writing and creativity with young writers. Naomi's background in improvisational and story theatre as well as her arts education work has convinced her that creative play is a doorway through which learners can find inspiration and transformative learning experiences. Naomi loves to play in many ways, but some of her favorites are tap-dancing, sketching, experimenting in the kitchen and tag with her Portuguese Water Dog, Turley. Naomi has a BA in Theatre Arts from Seattle Pacific University and has studied theatre with the Piven Theatre Workshop and ACT. She also has a Masters in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Hamline University.

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