

Hear Me by Kerry O'Malley Cerra

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is Rayne so against getting cochlear implants? Why are her parents convinced it's the right move?
2. Mr. Faro encourages Rayne to "let go *** brake and enjoy *** ride." What do you think letting go of the brakes means for Rayne? What are some examples of her doing this?
3. Throughout the book, Jenika remains supportive of Rayne as she struggles with her hearing loss. How does Rayne, in turn, support Jenika as a friend?
4. How does Rayne's hearing loss change how she's able to interact with friends? Give two or three examples.
5. Why is Rayne reluctant to spend more time with Troy, even though she likes him a lot? Why is it hard for her to believe that Troy likes her as she is?
6. Describe a couple of different ways that Rayne approaches her parents about why she doesn't want implants. Would you use any of her strategies to have a hard conversation?
7. Why does Rayne try to see Dr. Brandt in person? Do you think she makes the right choice?
8. Rayne works really hard to become SGA president. But eventually, she realizes she can't do the job on her own. Can you think of a time when you worked hard for something and achieved it? What about a time when you realized you needed to step back or ask for more help?
9. At Bayview, Mr. Lazar tells Rayne's mom that "normal is relative." How do you think "normal" is different at Bayview compared to Sea Ridge Middle School? Is Jenika's normal the same as Rayne's? How might "normal" be different from person to person?
10. What lessons do Rayne's parents learn about their daughter over the course of the novel? What does Rayne learn about herself?
11. At the beginning of the book, Rayne wishes she could "stop everyone from noticing [her] hearing problem at all." How have her feelings started to change by the end of the book?
12. Why does Rayne end up admiring Helen Keller? How does Helen's perspective help shift how Rayne thinks about herself and her hearing loss?