

# EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!



## Meet the author

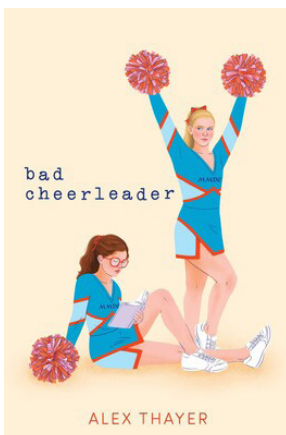
Alex Thayer grew up on a tiny island in New England. When she was a kid, everyone called her Posse. She loved to ride her bike down steep hills, and she never wanted to brush her hair. In fourth grade, she wrote a story with her friend Bunty. It was called *The Weirdos*. In sixth grade, Alex was the only girl on the boys basketball team. After graduating from Wheaton College and the National Theater Institute, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career. She spent many years working as an actress. Alex appeared on the TV show *Grey's Anatomy* and starred in the film *December Ends*. The author now lives in New England with her two sons. Her favorite time to write is early in the morning.

Learn more about Alex [ONLINE](#).

## Interview with Alex

[\*TCR Talks with Alex Thayer, author of Happy & Sad & Everything True\*](#)

## Read more with Alex



# EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

LET'S BEGIN! BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Use the Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) questions below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- *What is going on in this picture?*
- *What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)*
- *What more can we find?*

Watch this [VIDEO](#) for a quick VTS demo

## HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers, 207-460-6828 or [ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org](mailto:ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org).

## LET'S TALK!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This book has the general theme of loneliness running throughout. On page 2 Dee is listing reasons she doesn't like Snack and Stretch. "... It's way better to feel alone by yourself than alone in a crowd." Why do you think Dee feels this way? Do you agree with her?
2. How would you feel about being in a 3-legged race with one of your parents?
3. How is the grate in the bathroom significant? Have you ever had a secret meeting place with a friend?
4. Page 26 Dee says, "If Bernadette were my mom I would like her rules... I'd like how much she cared about me." Do you think if a parent has a lot of rules that means they care more about you than a family with less rules, or does this matter?
5. Compare and contrast what Dee thinks about Juniper's house to how she describes her own house. (Chapters 4 & 8)

## STANDARDS

*Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:*

*SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.*

*SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.*

*SL.3 Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.*

*R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.*

*R.5 Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.*

*R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.*

*R.8 Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.*

*R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.*

## 6. Character development & growth:

Think about and discuss how the characters grow and change in this book. Why is this important? Which character do you think grows the most?

7. What do you think it means to be courageous? Which character shows the most courage (if any)?
8. On pages 248 and 249 Dee learns that things can look one way on the outside and be very different on the inside. Have you ever noticed this to be true? In what way?

## CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:

represents observable changes in an individual's characteristics over the course of a narrative

## GROWTH:

how the character evolves - becomes better- over time

## LET'S CREATE (AND DO)! Book-Inspired Art

1. Start a newspaper advice column- Check out IRW's [IVY & BEAN BOOK GUIDE](#) for newspaper templates. Templates are also located in Appendix A.
2. Host your own **Snack & Stretch**. Pick your favorite snacks and what stretches you would want to do.
3. Make a diorama of the bathroom in this book, including the tiles and grate and whatever else you remember.
4. Help Dee (and yourself) learn the state capitals! Use repetition, flashcards, songs or rhymes.
5. **DO YOU LOVE CATS or other types of animals?** Visit a shelter and see how you can help. Interview your animal: Illustrate your animal, learn about their personality, see what they like to eat, etc.
6. Choose your own chapter heading images. What would you choose to represent each chapter and why?

watercolor  
markers  
oil pastel colored  
pencils  
cardboard  
masking tape  
glitter glue  
paste  
modeling clay  
calligraphy pens



7. Make a piece of art just like the kids in 6B! Dee had to choose at least two items from Mr. Hicklin's art supply list (p. 114) and create an imaginative piece of art. Choose two materials to make your creation?

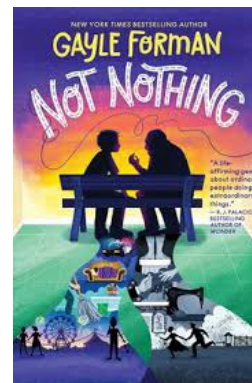
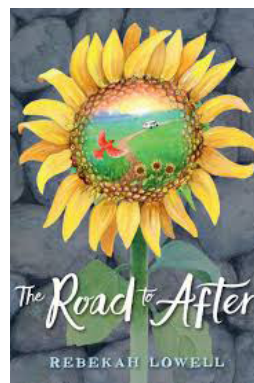
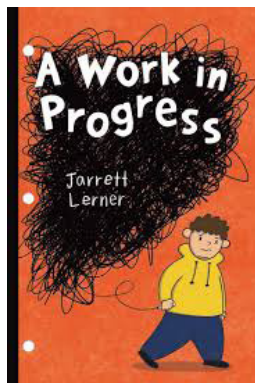
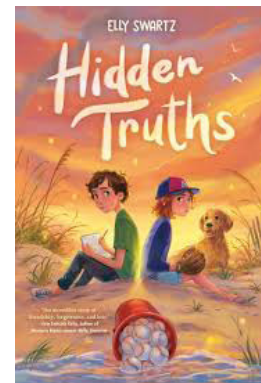
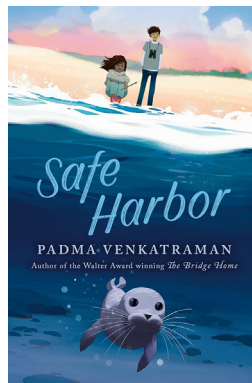
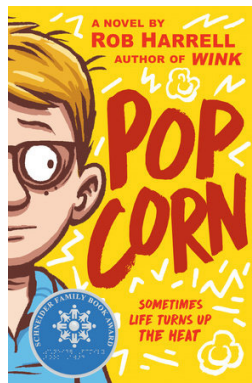
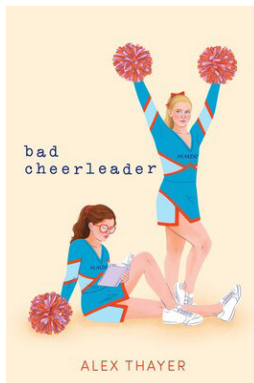
## LET'S DIVE DEEPER! Explore More

Grab a notebook and a pencil and [LISTEN](#) as Alex reads chapter 3 which ends with a writing prompt idea for you!

Some fun words from the book to look up!

**HARMONIUM**   **KITCHOURI**   **OPPORTUNITY**  
**SUPERFICIAL**   **INAPPROPRIATE**   **PLUCKY**  
**EMPATHETIC**   **ANONYMOUS**

**LET'S READ MORE!** Text to Text Connections



## NEWSPAPER TEMPLATES

YOUR NEWSPAPER NAME HERE!		
THE DATE GOES HERE		YOUR LOCATION HERE
HEADLINE GOES HERE!		ANOTHER ONE HERE!
A BIG PICTURE		SECOND STORY GOES HERE...
YOUR STORY STARTS HERE!	... AND CONTINUES HERE!	
CLASSIFIED ADS	SMALL HEADLINE SMALL STORY	PICTURE
CARTOON OR JOKES		