

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Maybe a Mermaid

by Josephine Cameron



When Anthoni learns about the Boulay Mermaid, she isn't sure if the story is real or simply a rumor. Have you ever heard an incredible rumor? How did you react?

Anthoni has been the “new kid” in a lot of towns, and in Chapters 23 and 24 she finds herself in a brand new situation at swimming lessons. Have you ever been in a new situation like this? How did you deal with it? If you were one of the kids on the beach on Anthoni’s first day of swimming lessons, what would you do to help her feel more comfortable?

In Chapter 13, Charlotte Boulay describes a humbug as “a hoax.” Meriam’s Dictionary defines humbug as “something designed to deceive and mislead.” What are some examples of humbugs found in Maybe a Mermaid? What are some ways you can decide whether something is true or whether it is a humbug?

More than anything, Anthoni wants a True Blue Friend (TBF). What are some signs that Maddy might be a TBF, and what are some signs that she might not be? Can you answer this same question about DJ, Julie, Kurt, and Charlotte Boulay?

Anthoni’s relationship with her mom is important to her. What are some ways that the Gillis Girls support each other throughout the book? What are some of the ways they let each other down? How is Anthoni’s relationship with her mom different at the end of the book than it was in the Prologue when she was younger?

What would you put on your own True Blue Friend Criteria list? How could you work toward being a better friend yourself?

Are there ways that Anthoni acts like a True Blue Friend? Are there ways she does not act like a TrueBlue Friend?

In Chapter 17, Anthoni goes inside Maddy’s closet to look at her drawings. What do you think are some of the things that went wrong in this scene? What would you have done in her place?