Discussion Questions for
*I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912*
by Lauren Tarshis

Ten-year-old George can’t believe his luck—he and his sister Phoebe are crossing the ocean on the famous Titanic. The ship is full of exciting places to explore, but when a terrible boom shakes the entire boat, suddenly water is everywhere and George’s life changes forever.

1. Discuss examples from the book that show the time period is 1912 and not the present day. How are things different?

2. The Titanic was considered the greatest ship of its day. What features would you include if you designed a cruise ship today?

3. George’s ideas get him in trouble. Would you have gone searching for the mummy? Why or why not?

4. Why were the gates closed so the people in third class were locked below? Do you think this would happen today?

5. George feels that he and Enzo are long lost friends. Have you ever had an immediate connection with someone? Explain.

6. How does seeing the blueprints of the ship save George and his family?

7. Why do you think George’s father secretly watches him when George escapes to the woods in the night?

8. Discuss how the book would be different if it was written from the point of view of Aunt Daisy, Phoebe, Enzo, Marco, or George and Phoebe’s father.

9. How does escaping the Titanic change George? How do you think it would change you if you were a Titanic survivor?

10. What is George’s conflict with his father at the beginning of the book and how does their relationship change by the end of the book?

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