



Discussion Questions for *Ways to Live Forever* by Sally Nicholls

Living through the final stages of leukemia, Sam collects stories, questions, lists, and pictures that create a profoundly moving portrait of how a boy lives when he knows his time is almost up.

1. Would you rather learn in a classroom with other students or be homeschooled? Explain why.
2. How are Sam and Felix alike and how are they different? Provide examples from the book to explain their similarities and differences.
3. Sam investigates various death customs in *Ways to Live Forever*. What customs does your family take part in when someone dies?
4. Do you think it was a good idea or a bad idea for Sam to visit Felix's body after his death? Why?
5. Both of Sam's parents spent special days with him before he died. What was so special to Sam about each of these days?
6. How did Felix influence Sam when he was alive? What about after he passed away?
7. Why does Sam feel that his adventure during the blackout was similar to a space exploration? Explain, using details from the book.
8. Sam makes a list of his ten happiest memories. What ten memories would be on your list?
9. What was the significance behind each of the presents Sam made for his family members? What presents would you give to your loved ones if you were in Sam's position?
10. Do you think Sam died the way he wanted to? Why or why not?