

# The Unforgettable Leta "Lightning" Laurel



**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1**

**IN THE UNFORGETTABLE LETA “LIGHTNING” LAUREL, LETA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING CARE OF HER YOUNGER SISTER, AMELIA.**

**HOW DOES SHE FEEL ABOUT THIS? HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO TAKE CARE OF A YOUNGER OR OLDER SIBLING? WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DID YOU HAVE TO DO? HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL?**

**OR IF YOU HAD A SIBLING WHO HAD TO TAKE CARE OF YOU, HOW DO YOU THINK THEY FELT ABOUT IT?**

**2**

**LETA ADMITS FEELING EMBARRASSED THAT HER FAMILY CAN'T AFFORD TO REPLACE HER TRACK SPIKES BEFORE HER TRACK MEET. WHY DO YOU THINK SHE FEELS EMBARRASSED?**

**SHE ALSO ADMITS TO NOT EATING SCHOOL LUNCH BECAUSE SOME OF THE STUDENTS AT HER SCHOOL MAKE FUN OF HER FOR BEING ON THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM. “IT’S HARD NOT TO FEEL LIKE SOMETHING’S WRONG WITH YOU” WHEN PEOPLE SAY MEAN THINGS OR MAKE FUN OF YOU, SHE SAYS.**

**DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH WHAT SHE SAYS? WHY? AND WHY WOULD HER PEERS MAKE FUN OF HER FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO AFFORD THE SCHOOL LUNCH?**

**3**

**IN CHAPTER FOUR, LETA LISTS SOME OF THE UNSPOKEN RULES GIRLS ARE SUPPOSED TO LIVE BY.**

**“DON’T BE TOO SMART. DON’T BOSS BOYS AROUND. DON’T WEAR ANYTHING THAT MIGHT DISTRACT THE BOYS. DON’T ARGUE. DON’T SHOW OFF. DON’T BE SELFISH. DON’T CHALLENGE THE WAY THINGS ARE, EVEN IF THEY’RE NOT FAIR.”**

**WHAT ARE SOME UNSPOKEN RULES THAT YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO LIVE BY THAT MAY OR MAY NOT FIT WHO YOU ARE?**



**4**

**IN THAT SAME CHAPTER, LETA SAYS, "MOST OF THE GIRLS IN MY SCHOOL SEE EVERYTHING AS A COMPETITION. NONE OF US KNOW WHAT THE PRIZE IS."**

**DO STUDENTS AT YOUR SCHOOL SEE EVERYTHING AS A COMPETITION? WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THIS? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS A SOLUTION?**

**5**

**LETA SAYS, "HOW'S A PERSON STOP CARING WHEN SOMEONE INSULTS YOU?"**

**WHAT'S YOUR TRICK FOR NOT CARING WHEN SOMEONE INSULTS YOU? HAS THERE EVER BEEN A TIME WHEN SOMEONE INSULTED YOU THAT YOU FOUND HARD TO FORGET? WHY?**

**6**

**LETA'S MOM IS VERY RESISTANT TO GETTING HELP FROM GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO PAY FOR FOOD, EVEN THOUGH HER FAMILY NEEDS IT.**

**WHY DO YOU THINK SHE FEELS THIS WAY?**

**7**

**WHY IS LETA SO DETERMINED TO GET HER DAD TO COME BACK FOR AMELIA'S DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE?**

**8**

**WHY DO YOU THINK LETA FEELS EMBARRASSED ABOUT POP?**

**HAVE YOU EVER FELT EMBARRASSED ABOUT A PERSON IN YOUR FAMILY/LIFE?**

**9**

**WHY DO YOU THINK LETA AND HER TEAMMATES HAVE TO TAKE “NEW” TRACK UNIFORMS THAT DON’T QUITE FIT?**

**HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT GIRLS’ SPORTS DON’T GET QUITE AS MUCH FUNDING AND MONEY AS BOYS’ SPORTS? WHAT DO YOU THINK CAN BE DONE ABOUT THIS?**

**10**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LISTS LETA GETS PUT ON? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ON A LIST OR MADE A LIST LIKE THE ONES IN THE UNFORGETTABLE LETA “LIGHTNING” LAUREL?**

**IF YOU MADE ONE, WHY? HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO MAKE A LIST LIKE THAT?**

**AND IF YOU WERE ON ONE, HOW DID THAT MAKE YOU FEEL? WHAT DO YOU WISH THE LIST-MAKERS HAD KNOWN?**

**11**

**LETA’S MOM TELLS LETA, “YOUR BODY, YOUR CHOICE. FOR EVERYTHING.” WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS MEANS FOR LETA? WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS FOR YOU?**

**12**

**DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE SENTIMENT “THE WORLD IS A VAMPIRE”? WHY OR WHY NOT?**

**13**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT POP STILL RUNNING WHEN HE’S “OLD?” WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DO YOU LOVE DOING THAT YOU STILL WANT TO BE DOING WHEN YOU’RE OLD?**



**14**

**LETA SAYS, "I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE CARRYING A HUNDRED WORRISOME THINGS IN YOUR HEAD."**

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE CARRYING A HUNDRED WORRISOME THINGS IN YOUR HEAD?**

**WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO GET RID OF THOSE WORRISOME THINGS, OR AT LEAST GET RID OF SOME OF THEM?**

**15**

**EXPLAIN, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT FOR LETA TO WIN HER DISTRICT RACE. HAVE YOU EVER WANTED SOMETHING SO BADLY THAT YOU'D DO ANYTHING (LIKE RUN ON AN INJURED FOOT) TO GET IT? WHAT WAS IT? AND DID YOU GET IT?**

**16**

**WHY DO YOU THINK LETA SAYS, "I KNOW IT'S RIDICULOUS TO HATE SOMEONE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW, BUT IT'S MUCH HARDER NOT TO THAN YOU'D THINK"?**

**WHY DO YOU THINK SHE MIGHT HATE THE NEW GIRL, NATALIE? HAVE YOU EVER HATED SOMEONE BEFORE YOU EVEN KNEW THEM? WHY?**

**17**

**DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH WHAT LETA SAYS HERE: "WHEN YOU HAVE SO LITTLE, YOU GET TO WHERE YOU'RE TERRIFIED OF LOSING WHAT LITTLE YOU HAVE." WHY? SHARE ABOUT A TIME WHEN YOU FELT THE SAME OR COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.**

**18**

**HAVE YOU EVER FELT THE SAME AS LETA WHEN SHE SAYS, "IF I CAN'T BE THE BEST, WHO AM I?" WHEN DID YOU FEEL THIS WAY? AT WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE THE BEST? AT WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO BE THE BEST NOW?**

**19**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE WAY LETA AND HER FRIENDS TREAT NATALIE AT FIRST? WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A BETTER WAY TO TREAT HER?**

**20**

**COACH MAC TELLS ALL HER TRACK GIRLS ABOUT THE BONOBOs, WHO OPERATE LIKE A SISTERHOOD TO KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE.**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT "THE SISTERHOOD?" WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU THINK ARE IMPORTANT FOR THE SISTERHOOD? HOW CAN YOU START BUILDING A SISTERHOOD WHERE YOU ARE?**

**21**

**HAVE YOU EVER BELIEVED A MYTH LIKE "LIGHTER IS FASTER?" WHAT DID YOU DO TO CONFIRM IT WAS A MYTH? HOW DID YOU CHANGE YOUR THINKING ABOUT IT?**

**22**

**WHY DO YOU THINK AMELIA IS REBELLING AGAINST LETA ACTING LIKE HER SECOND MOM?**

**23**

**LETA'S HAVING A VERY HARD TIME GETTING STARTED WITH HER LETTER PROJECT AT SCHOOL, EVEN THOUGH SHE USUALLY DOESN'T HAVE TROUBLE WITH ENGLISH ASSIGNMENTS.**

**WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S SO HARD FOR HER? WHAT KINDS OF SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS ARE HARD FOR YOU TO DO? WHY?**



**24**

**WHY DO YOU THINK LETA DOESN'T TALK TO HER FRIENDS AT SCHOOL ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN HER PERSONAL LIFE? DO YOU TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS OR KEEP THINGS TO YOURSELF? WHICH DO YOU THINK IS BETTER? WHY?**

**25**

**WHY DO YOU THINK SABRINA DID WHAT SHE DID TO LETA?**

**DO PEOPLE HAVE A REASON FOR THE MEANNESS THEY TURN ON OTHER PEOPLE, OR ARE THEY JUST MEAN?**

**WHEN SOMEONE IS MEAN TO YOU, DO YOU EVER TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHY THEY MIGHT BE DOING WHAT THEY DO?**

**26**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK IT TAKES TO BE UNFORGETTABLE?**