

# Brilliant Hues

## Discussion Guide



### About the Book:

Life comes full circle for Sadie as she heads back to Menlo Park, California. But Sadie finds she no longer fits in, especially when one of her dad's cases thrusts her into the spotlight and puts her in danger. She turns to her faith, but the youth group just isn't the same, and Sadie has a lot to think about when she hears what some kids believe. She returns to Owl Creek for a reprieve, but everything feels different. She just wants things to go back the way they used to be. Will her faith be strong enough to get her through?

### To Discuss:

1. Sadie and Pippa have a grand adventure with their dogs on the beach. Do you have a pet? How does your pet make your life more adventurous? If you don't have a pet, what kind would you choose, if you could have any animal without restrictions?
2. What do you think about Sadie moving home to California? At the beginning of the book, what did you expect? Did her experiences surprise you?
3. Sadie really wants freedom in this book, and struggles with circumstances that make her feel singled out and overprotected. As you start to take on new freedom and new responsibilities in your life, where do you wish you could have more freedom? What responsibilities do you feel ready to take on? How do you talk to the adults in your life about the freedoms and responsibilities that you hope to move toward?
4. Have you ever taken on a volunteer job? What did you enjoy about it? What was difficult about the experience? What new volunteer roles do you think you may want to explore in the future?
5. What might you advise Sadie to do when she feels so strongly that what her friends are doing is wrong?
6. Sadie and Pippa end up in such a huge disagreement that neither knows how to talk about the problem. What do you think someone could do in a similar situation? How can friends talk through problems when they feel stuck and hurt?
7. If you could ask Sadie or one of her friends one question, what would it be? Do you have any idea how he or she might answer?
8. Many readers have questions about what will happen to Sadie and her friends when *Brilliant Hues* ends. What scene would you like to see after the last page of the book? What do you think would happen in the scene?

Naomi Kinsman

## Extension Activities:

### Home Town Tourist:

One of my favorite scenes to write in *Brilliant Hues* was the scene in which Pippa and Sadie visit San Francisco. It's basically their home town, but they explore all the places a tourist might visit when they come to town. We don't often poke around our own towns the way a visitor might. But the adventure is a lot of fun when we do! So, here's the challenge: Go on a home-town adventure, take pictures, maybe even create a travelogue about your day. Then, share your experience with a friend, family member, or email the story of your home-town adventure highlights to [naomi@naomikinsman.com](mailto:naomi@naomikinsman.com). I often feature readers on my blog.

### Doorway Art:

Sadie, Frankie and Vivian are making a book full of door-inspired art. At first, they are very literal about doors, but after a while, they start to think more and more creatively about what a door could possibly be. Explore your own house, neighborhood or town and look for inspiration for your own doorway art piece. Use any style you choose: paint, collage, photography, drawing, clay, etc, and make a work of art. Expand the project by asking a group of friends to make some doorway art as well and compile all of your creations into a book. If you like, take pictures and send them along with the story of creating your art to [naomi@naomikinsman.com](mailto:naomi@naomikinsman.com). I'd love to see your work and share some on my blog.

### Share Your Gifts:

Sadie and Pippa volunteer to help with summer camp. Not only is this a great, challenging experience for them, they also have the chance to share their gifts with others. What are your girls? Is there a way that you can share your gifts in your local community? With a friend, or a group of friends, look for opportunities to volunteer in a very specific way, not only giving your time, but also giving your talents. Like Sadie, you might just find that you gain even more than you end up giving!



### About the Author:

Author of the *From Sadie's Sketchbook* series and *Spilled Ink*, the award winning Inklings Writer's Notebook, Naomi is passionate about sharing her love of writing and creativity with young writers. Naomi's background in improvisational and story theatre as well as her arts education work has convinced her that creative play is a doorway through which learners can find inspiration and transformative learning experiences. Naomi loves to play in many ways, but some of her favorites are tap-dancing, sketching, experimenting in the kitchen and tag with her Portuguese Water Dog, Turley. Naomi has a BA in Theatre Arts from Seattle Pacific University and has studied theatre with the Piven Theatre Workshop and ACT. She also has a Masters in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Hamline University.

Have comments, thoughts or experiences to share with fellow readers? Visit these links to join the larger conversation.

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