

Discussion Questions for *Alice*

1. Nina and her mother have formed a nuclear family with no other relatives. How does that compare to your life? What kinds of differences are there?
2. Chapter 2 describes Rosa Parks briefly and lets us know that Alice is going to follow in her footsteps. This is a good place to discuss foreshadowing. It also leads into a discussion about the “quiet people” – whether they’re fulfilling an important role in society or whether they need to speak up.
3. Nina is different from her friends in more than one way. How is she different and what effect does that have on her friendships?
4. Thanks to Jack, Nina gets to know the teens on her street. Why hasn’t she made friends with them before?
5. Alice has always been very proper while Nina’s been growing up. Is this because of her job or a reaction to the way she was brought up or both?
6. Jack and Alice start talking about when Alice was growing up when they go camping. In what ways was Jack a good father? In what ways was he a terrible father?
7. In the first chapter, we learn Alice went to a sperm bank for Nina’s “other half” and in chapter ten, Jack’s secret comes out (that he might not be Alice’s biological father). Who’s more of a father?
8. Discussion over what alternative would have been best for Alice as a baby could get lively!
9. Alice becomes the Rosa Parks of the Taxpayers Civil Rights Movement. Does such a movement really exist? Should it? What issues might be addressed if it did?
10. In the third world, the poor live in little shacks crowded together. In the United States, they live in condemned housing or tents or cardboard boxes or shelters while good buildings sit empty and decay. What can you do about it? Check out some of the resources at the end of the book.