

ATPE BOOK of the month CLUB

Waiting for Normal by *Leslie Connor*

1. Addie watches Soula deal with cancer. Describe how Soula changes in the story and how Addie deals with these changes.
2. Why do you think the author, Leslie Connor, choose to name the book *Waiting for Normal*? Do you think the title adequately reflects the theme of the story?
3. Describe Addie's personality. How does she deal with the struggles in her life? How would you deal with those struggles?
4. Discuss Addie and Mommers' relationship. How is it different from the "typical" mother/daughter relationship?
5. Compare and contrast Addie's life when she is living at "home" with Mommers and her life at "home" with Dwight, Hannah and the Littles.
6. Why do you think Addie tried to sabotage her future visits with Dwight, Hannah and the Littles? Have you done anything to sabotage your own happiness or known anyone else who has? Reflect on this incident.
7. Addie describes Mommers as "all or nothing." List examples of this, and think about what you would do for Mommers if you were her psychiatrist. What advice would you give her to deal with her mental illness? Do some research on bipolar disorder to justify your answer.
8. How does Addie compensate for her mother's mistakes and irresponsibility throughout the book?
9. Pretend Leslie Connor wrote a book about Addie and her family that tells the story of their lives before *Waiting for Normal*. What key events and characters would come into play in this prequel?
10. Describe your feelings at the ending of the book. Take into consideration each character in the book. How did the ending fare for them?

