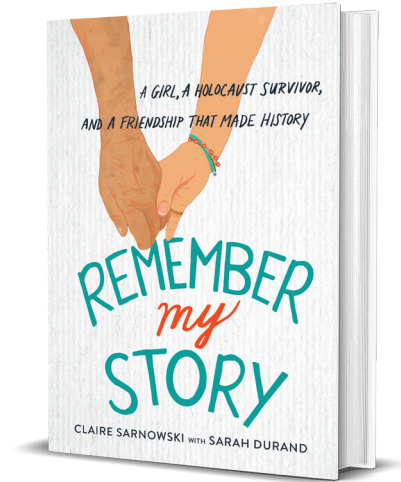


REMEMBER *my* STORY

CLAIRE SARNOWSKI WITH SARAH DURAND BOOK CLUB GUIDE

Discussion Questions

1. Claire describes her friendship with Alter as “pretty unlikely” (p. 2). What makes them unlikely friends? Why does their friendship work so well? Do you have any examples of unlikely friendships from your own life or books, shows, or movies?
2. Alter was very committed to becoming better, not bitter, despite the cruelty he experienced (p. 14). He hoped others would do the same. What does that mean to you? Drawing from books, shows, movies, or your own life, when was another time someone was better, not bitter?
3. Throughout the book, Claire and Alter emphasize that it’s important for young people to learn about all of history, even when it’s hard. Have you learned about the Holocaust or other genocides in school? If so, how did that affect you? If not, do you think you should have? Why or why not?
4. Claire believes that if the kids committing hate crimes could see the effects of hate and intolerance, they would change their actions (p. 75). Do you agree with her, why or why not? Do you think that learning about history can change individuals’ actions in the future? Do you have any examples?
5. Claire learns over the course of her friendship with Alter that “the law was a living thing that even teenagers could influence” (p. 163). What rule or law would you change if you could? Have you ever advocated for a change that you believe would benefit your school, neighborhood, community, and world?
6. Speaking about current activism, Claire notes that “social media has given young people a platform that no other generation has had” (p. 229). How can you use that platform for good? Do you think lasting change can occur from social media-based activism? Do you have examples?
7. What does activism mean to you?



Get Involved

As Claire points out in the book, the number of youth activists is growing. Once you’ve decided what issues matter to you, here are some ways to get involved:

1. Look for groups in your area that are working on the issue you care about. This could be a law, a school rule, or a neighborhood effort. You can donate your time and energy by assisting them with events, joining a protest, or raising awareness about the issue!
2. If you can’t find an existing organization, start by reaching out to your friends and family to find people who are invested in the same cause as you.
3. Look up your representatives, both local and federal. Reach out to them by phone, email, and/or letter to let them know about your cause. Encourage your friends and family to do the same!
4. Some organizations offer training, connections, and even grants to young people who want to make a difference. Do some research to see if you could benefit from teaming up with them.
5. Change doesn’t have to be national to be meaningful. Even changing policies at your school or helping someone who’s having a bad day can make the world a better place. Start small, dream big, and be the change!