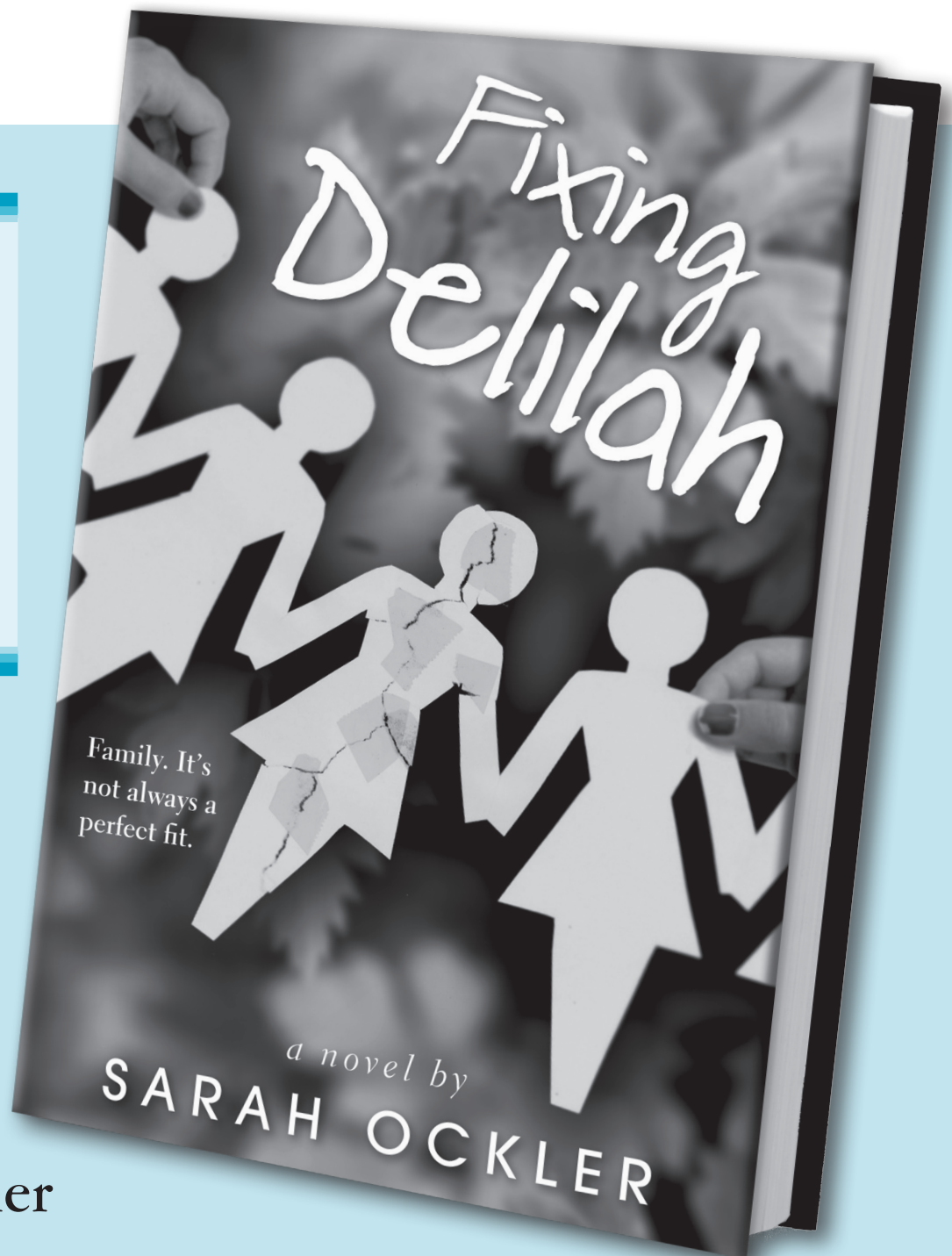


Fixing Delilah

Curriculum connections

- ❖ Family
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Grief

Ages 12 & Up



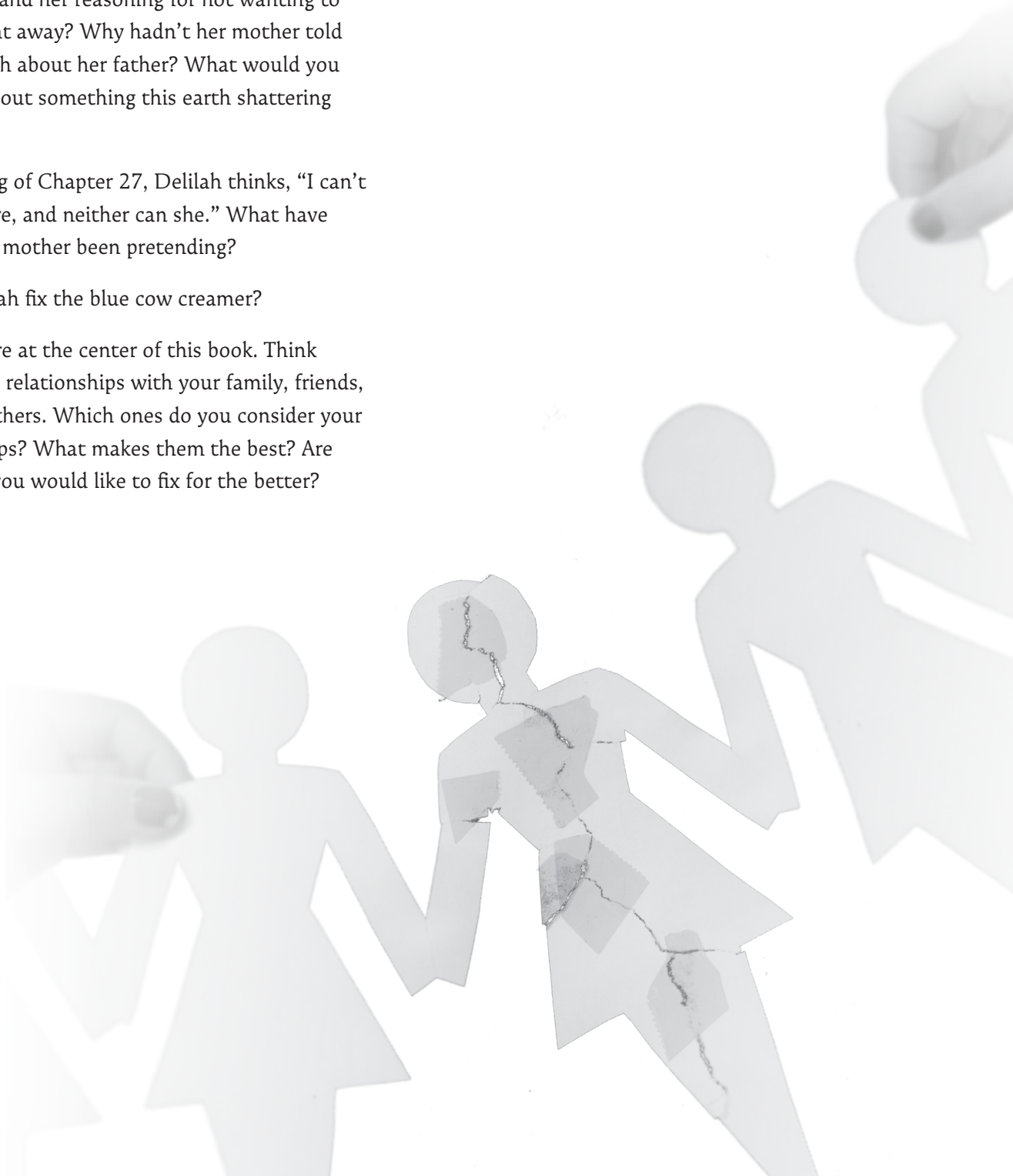
By Sara Ockler

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the first and second chapters, the author gives glimpses into the character of Delilah and her family. These glimpses probably led you to make some predictions about Delilah and the events to come. Were any of your predictions correct or did things turn out differently than you expected? Explain.
2. The house at Red Falls Lake is a place Delilah has not been to in eight years. She says it looks different to her. Have you ever had that same realization about a place, or a person, you remember from your childhood? How did you feel about what you saw? What memories did you have?
3. The title of the book is *Fixing Delilah*, and at the beginning of the book, the author includes the dictionary definitions of the word fix. How do these definitions relate to the book? Do you think the title is a good title? Who else, in addition to Delilah, do you think needs to be fixed? How are Delilah, the other characters, and their relationships “fixed” by the end of the book?
4. What does Delilah have in common with her Aunt Stephanie? As Delilah reads Stephanie’s diary, what do you learn about Stephanie? How does Stephanie’s story affect Delilah and what is Delilah afraid might happen to her family? Why do you think Delilah doesn’t share the discovery of the diary with her mother and aunt but she tells Patrick about it?
5. What do Delilah and her mother’s Tarot card readings foreshadow?
6. Why do you think Delilah’s grandmother never liked the story about the cardinal trapped in the sunroom? What does Delilah come to realize about her grandmother that she didn’t know when she was a child?
7. The characters in this book, specifically Rachel, Delilah, and Delilah’s mother, describe good memories of days during their childhoods. How does this nostalgia help them deal with the present? Besides genetics, how are all the Hannaford women connected? What characteristics do they all share?
8. During her conversation with Megan, Delilah thinks, “I wonder how much we don’t see. How much of our lives we witness and accept as truth when the rest of the iceberg—the heaviest, bulkiest part—is buried and invisible.” (Chapter 20) What does this mean? How does this apply to everyone in Delilah’s life? Does this apply to your life?
9. Why is Delilah so upset to learn that her grandmother had set up a college fund for her? What does this college fund really say about how her grandmother felt about Delilah?
10. If you lived in a family that kept secrets the way the Hannafords do, would you behave and feel the same way as Delilah? How do you deal with lies, secrets, and truths?
11. Why does Delilah react the way she does when Patrick kisses her the first time? (Chapter 16) How are Patrick and Finn different and how do these differences affect Delilah? Why is Delilah afraid of falling in love with Patrick? How does she feel about each of them by the end of the book?
12. Delilah’s favorite memory of her mother is of a trip they took to Connecticut. Why do you think this memory is Delilah’s favorite? What makes this memory special?

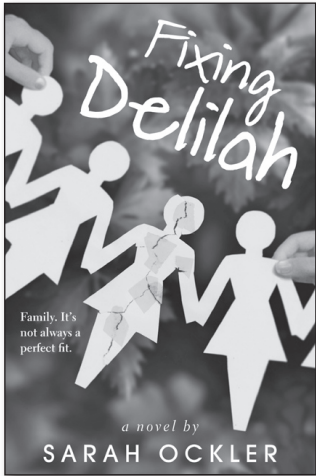
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

13. When Delilah's mother reveals the truth about Delilah's father and the full truth of the Hannaford family secret, why do you think Delilah reacts the way she does with both her mother and Patrick? How does she feel about Thomas Devlin and Casey Conroy? Do you understand her reasoning for not wanting to meet Casey right away? Why hadn't her mother told Delilah the truth about her father? What would you do if you found out something this earth shattering about yourself?
14. At the beginning of Chapter 27, Delilah thinks, "I can't pretend anymore, and neither can she." What have Delilah and her mother been pretending?
15. Why does Delilah fix the blue cow creamer?
16. Relationships are at the center of this book. Think about your own relationships with your family, friends, teachers, and others. Which ones do you consider your best relationships? What makes them the best? Are there any that you would like to fix for the better?
17. Did you like how the book ended? Do you think the ending was realistic and fit with the characters? If Delilah's story continued, what would you want to see happen for her?



Fixing Delilah

about the book



Fixing Delilah by Sarah Ockler

978-0-316-05209-2

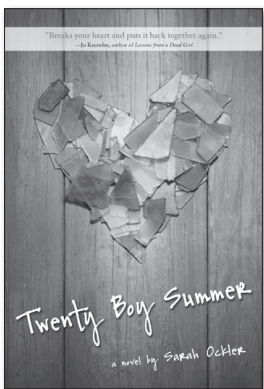
Things in Delilah Hannaford's life have a tendency to fall apart.

She used to be a good student, but she can't seem to keep it together anymore. Her "boyfriend" isn't much of a boyfriend. And her mother refuses to discuss the fight that divided their family eight years ago. Falling apart, it seems, is a Hannaford tradition.

Over a summer of new friendships, unexpected romance, and moments that test the complex bonds between mothers and daughters, Delilah must face her family's painful past. Can even her most shattered relationships be pieced together again?

Rich with emotion, Sarah Ockler delivers a powerful story of family, love, and self-discovery.

also by Sarah Ockler



Twenty Boy Summer

978-0-316-05159-0 HC

978-0-316-05158-3 PB

about the author



Sarah Ockler is the author of *Fixing Delilah* and the critically acclaimed *Twenty Boy Summer*. Unlike Delilah Hannaford, Sarah never cleaned gutters or painted fence posts as a teen, but she *did* pull a summer of estate-sale duty at her late grandmother's house, complete with an economy size jar of Saint Bernard ashes and a priceless antique creamer shaped like a cow. Sarah now lives in Colorado, where she enjoys hiking up mountains, hugging trees, and talking to birds with her husband, Alex. Her website is www.sarahockler.com.

“[A] sincere, romantic tearjerker.”

—Kirkus



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY
BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

www.lbschoolandlibrary.com
Educator's Guide prepared by Ellen Greene