Fortune Falls by Jenny Goebel

Discussion Questions

In the book, being lucky or unlucky is the basis for discrimination. What other ways have people in history used differences to discriminate against those that are different? Is discrimination still going on?

On page 54 Sadie pulls the covers over her head hoping to escape from what she fears? Have you ever done that or something similar?

When Betsy insisted that Sadie could win the spelling bee, Sadie had her doubts. She wondered if Betsy would have felt differently if she’d told her about the broken mirror. She decided the reason she hadn’t was because having someone believe in her made her feel like she could actually believe in herself. Has there been someone in your life who believes in you when you didn’t believe in yourself?

Sadie’s dad always looked for the positive in any situation. He told her “What Fate really wants is for us to stop trying.” Sadie tended to concentrate on the negative first, always expecting the worst. Her first instinct was to stop trying. Which is the best characteristic to have?

Do you think most people look for something or someone to blame when bad things happen? Can you think of examples of this?

When Sadie thought about being undetermined she realized it didn’t just mean unknown or unidentified. It also meant hesitant, faltering and unsure. Do those words mean a lack of confidence? Was being unlucky the same as having no hope or confidence?

If wishes are secret, how can anyone but you make them come true?

Why did Sadie try to run away from home? What stopped her? Have you ever thought about running away?

How would it feel to worry that everything you did would turn out bad?

Does winning a spelling bee, or an academic competition, or making good grades in school depend on luck?

By the end of the book, Sadie realized being lucky was the same as having confidence in her own abilities and never giving up. Is that a lesson everyone should learn to be successful?