



WILDERNESS HACKS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

JOSLIN BRORSEN lives in Oklahoma with her husband and five kids, and loves writing the kind of high-stakes stories that kept her younger self up all night reading with a flashlight. She wants her own children and the next generation of readers to have the same great stories, but with a few added elements she realizes now she was always searching for.

Going through childhood with both an invisible disease (Celiac) and an invisible difference (neurodivergence) makes her strive to write books that make kids want to read “just one more chapter,” while normalizing neurodivergence and other unseen struggles within its pages. Her ultimate aim is for her readers to realize that each of us is unique, and all of us are equally worthy of being the main character.

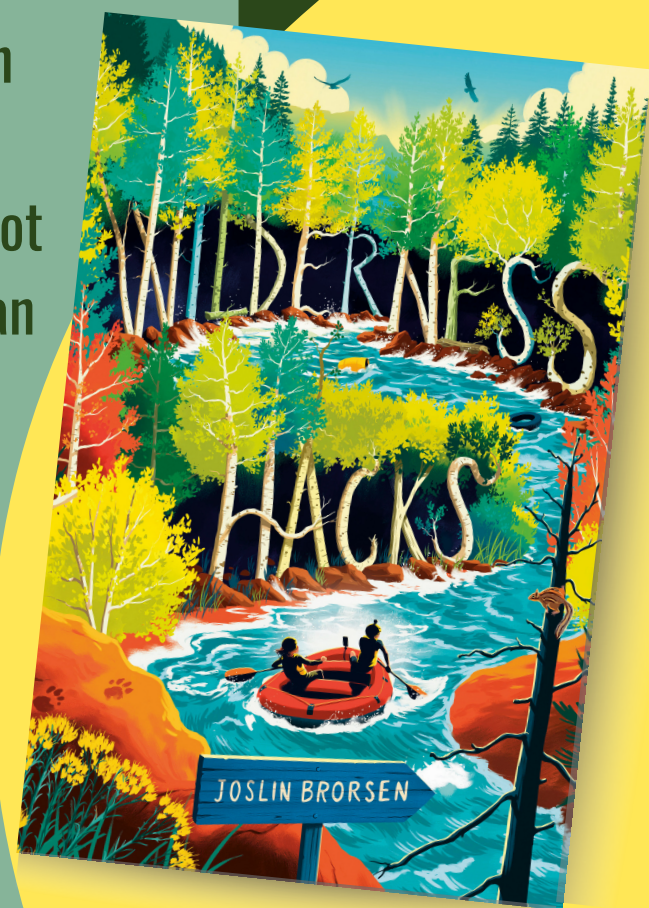


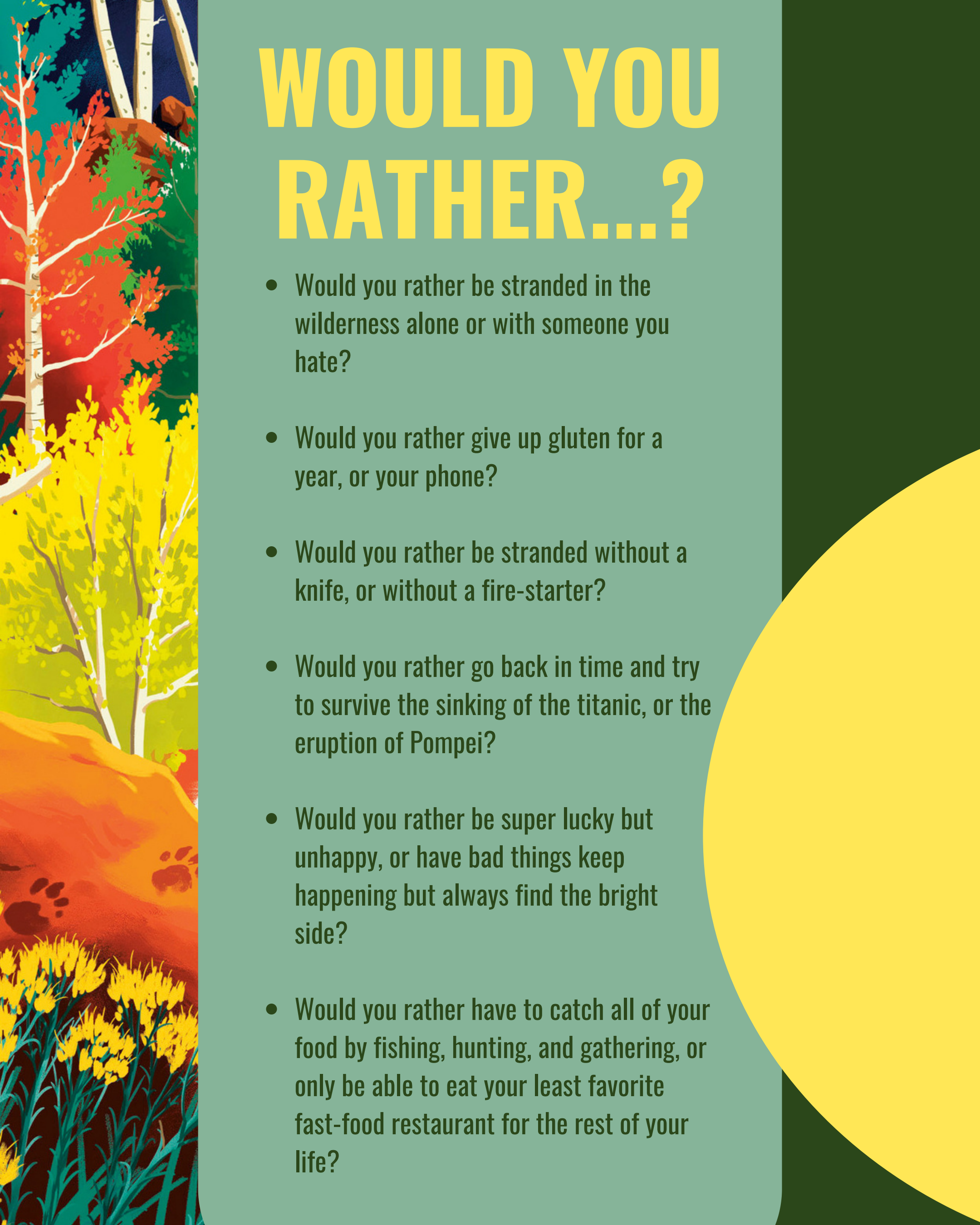
ABOUT THE BOOK:

12-year-old Sadie Hahn didn't plan to eat grubs on camera to win a contest. And she definitely didn't plan to win first prize—a guest appearance on a Youtube show hosted by America's favorite 13-year-old survivalist Radley Shaw. But she'll do anything to cheer up her little brother Silas, who's too young to qualify.

Rad has millions of followers and exactly zero real-life friends, so the contest is a great chance for him to hang out with kids his own age. But it's hate-at-first-sight when Silas throws a wrench in his plan and Sadie decides Rad is just a clueless poser who doesn't know the first thing about survival.

Disaster strikes when their scripted rafting trip turns into a real fight for survival. Lost in the mountains, Rad and Sadie must find shelter, build a fire, forage for food and try not to become food for a hungry predator. But can they stop bickering long enough to hack it in the wilderness? And will that be enough to keep them alive?





WOULD YOU RATHER...?

- Would you rather be stranded in the wilderness alone or with someone you hate?
- Would you rather give up gluten for a year, or your phone?
- Would you rather be stranded without a knife, or without a fire-starter?
- Would you rather go back in time and try to survive the sinking of the titanic, or the eruption of Pompei?
- Would you rather be super lucky but unhappy, or have bad things keep happening but always find the bright side?
- Would you rather have to catch all of your food by fishing, hunting, and gathering, or only be able to eat your least favorite fast-food restaurant for the rest of your life?

PRE-READ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- If you had to make a YouTube channel right now and convince people you were an expert about one specific thing, what would it be and why?
- What makes someone an expert? Is your answer the same thing that makes someone seem like an expert online? What level of knowledge do you really need to have to be seen as an expert online? Do you think it's more or less knowledge than what actually makes a person an expert?
- If you were going to choose a wilderness setting to get stranded in, where would you choose? How is it different from where you would like to read about other people getting stranded?
- When reading a book in first person, we get an inside look at what people are thinking, not just what they are saying. Do you think life would be better or worse if people said what they were thinking more often?
- Have you ever made assumptions about what someone else was thinking or feeling that ended up being incorrect? How did you find out? What did you do about it?

POST-READ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Think about the setting the author has chosen: the Rocky Mountains in the summer. How would the story be different if the season were changed? Would the story be more or less interesting if it had taken place in the winter? Would it be more or less dangerous?
- This book is written from multiple points of view. Can you think of a time that Rad and Sadie saw the same moment very differently? Why do you think that happens?
- Sadie often has big reactions to seemingly small things that Rad does and says, especially when Silas is involved. Why do you think that is?
- We only see Silas through Sadie and Rad's perspective in this book. Whose perception of him do you think is most accurate? Do you think either of them sees him clearly? If we could see this situation from Silas's point of view, how do you think the book would be different?

- Compare and contrast Sadie and Silas and how they handle the same traumatic event: losing their dad. Which way of handling it do you think is healthier long term?
- Sadie's determination to do anything for her brother (including eating grubs and visiting places that bring up painful memories) is not exactly common. If you have a sibling, would you do either of those things for them? Would they do it for you? Or, is there another person you would do anything for?
- Both Rad and Sadie have one parent missing from their life, but they relate to the parent who is still around very differently. How do those relationships shape who they are and how they interact with each other and with others?
- The Rad we meet at the beginning of the book is very different from the Rad we see at the end. What is the biggest difference you see in him? What about Sadie?
- Do you think Rad would be as good as he is at survival if he didn't have ADHD? He mentions that the way his brain works helps him in these situations. What things did you notice that made him uniquely suited to survive?
- If there was one subject you wish everyone your age knew more about, what would it be? Have you ever considered writing a book or a story about it? What genre would that book be? Do you think your peers having a deeper understanding of the subject you chose would make your life easier?

- Is there something unique or different about you that people don't seem to understand? What would be the key to making people understand you better?
- If you or someone you love had an invisible disability or disease, do you think you would get defensive about it the way Sadie does? What do you think would be the most effective response to questions and comments about it?
- Had you ever heard of Celiac Disease before reading this book? Had you ever considered how much thought and consideration goes into every bite of food for Celiacs or other people with food allergies? What specific moments in this book made you more empathetic?
- Sadie says Silas never complains about not being able to eat gluten. How would you handle it if suddenly one day you were told you'd never be able to eat your favorite meal again? Knowing it would risk your long-term health and make you immediately sick, would you cheat and eat it?
- Rad mentions having ADHD, Sadie has anxiety, and Silas is on the autism spectrum. Can you find evidence in the book about both the challenges this presents for these characters, and ways that it can be a strength?