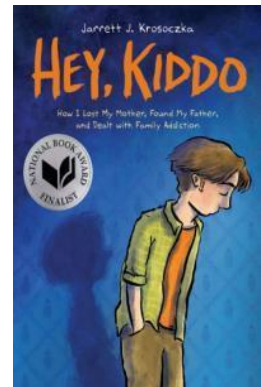


## Discussion Guide

### *Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction*

By Jarrett J. Krosoczka

1. Are there scenes in the memoir that particularly affected you? Which ones and why?
2. How does putting Jarrett's story in a graphic format convey things that might not come across purely in words?
3. In the second family meeting, Joe and Shirl tell Jarrett about his mother's addiction. What impact did this news have on Jarrett? How did it affect the family as a whole? Was it a good thing or a bad thing and why?
4. Jarrett is at first embarrassed to bring his non-conventional family to his eighth-grade graduation but then discovers that a lot of his friends' families are a little different, too. Does the presence of addiction in the family make it a harder situation, or is this something everyone must go through? How does Jarrett get past it?
5. Jarrett says, "When I was a kid, I'd draw to get attention from my family. In junior high, I drew to impress my friends. But now that I am in my teens, I fill sketchbooks just to deal with life. To survive." What do you think Jarrett means by that?
6. Three generations of the Krosoczka family made use of their talents in their own ways. Joe helped design a product that allowed his business to succeed. Leslie drew popular characters that helped her make some of the few connections she could with her son. Jarrett came to terms with his upbringing and shared himself with others through his success as an illustrator and through this book. What uses of art appeal to you the most, whether as participant or observer?
7. The artist mixes images of real-life artifacts with his drawings. What does that do for you as a reader?
8. Did Jarrett's meeting with his father and siblings have the outcome that you expected? What, if anything, surprised you?
9. Research shows that [addiction](#) often runs in families because of the genes that a person inherits, the environment they experience in the home, and other factors. Likewise, drug and alcohol misuse can be prevented, reduced or stopped through the work of families, schools, communities, support organizations and even the media. How did these positive and negative contributors show up in Jarrett's life? Why do you think that Jarrett did not become a substance abuser himself?
10. Leslie's drug use often takes center stage, but the family must also live with how Joe and Shirley use alcohol. How does it affect the Krosoczkas?
11. Halfway houses, treatment facilities and people recovering from addiction are frequently in the background when Jarrett and his mother meet. What purposes do they serve for the main characters?



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