

Reader's Guide for *Sink or Swim*

1. People tend to either love or hate reality television shows. Where do you fit in the spectrum? Why do you think these shows are so popular with viewers and networks?
2. Why do you think the classic children's novel, *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, is still so important to Cassidy? Why did Cassidy relate to the character of Sara Crewe when she was a child and what does this reveal about her as an adult?
3. How did you like Cassidy as a character? What were her strengths and flaws? How does she change by the end of the novel?
4. How did you feel about Cassidy's offbeat family? Would you consider them normal or dysfunctional?
5. Compare and contrast the characters of Josh and Zach as possible love interests for Cassidy? How did you feel about these characters when they were first introduced and how did your feelings change as you learned more about them?
6. How important do you think fame and personal achievement were to Cassidy at the beginning of the book? What about at the end of the book?
7. Most of the novel was told from Cassidy's point of view, however during a couple of pivotal moments, the author briefly switched to other viewpoint characters. How do you think this enhanced or detracted from the novel? Why do you think the author chose to switch viewpoints in these instances?
8. Staying with Rosemary in Vermont challenges Cassidy's independence at first, however by the end of her visit, Cassidy almost enjoys someone taking care of her. How did you like the character of Rosemary?
9. Were you surprised by the identity of the stalker? Why or why not? Who were your suspects?