

ALICE IN TIME

BY **Penelope Bush**



When Alice falls off a merry-go-round, she is given a chance to rewrite her wretched life. How much can she change? And will she even like the results?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The author used the idea of time travel to tell Alice's story—dividing the book into three parts depicting Alice at different points in her life. Do you like stories that utilize this technique? Why or why not?

When Alice's dad marries Trish in Part One, Alice meets her new step-grandma. How is Trish's mom different from Alice's grandma? How do you deal with new people becoming a part of your own family?

In Part One Alice feels a lot of resentment toward her little brother, Rory. Do you have a younger brother or sister who drives you crazy? What annoys you most about him/her? What could you do to try to make things better?

Alice feels a lot of conflict in her family, and she thinks that no one understands her or cares about her. She says she is never happy. Do you think this is normal for a fourteen-year-old girl? Have you ever had similar feelings? How have you dealt with them? What kinds of things make you truly happy?

When Alice returns to being age seven in Part Two, her fourteen-year-old self decides to "rewrite her own life." If you had a chance to rewrite your life, what changes would you make?

When Alice learns that her grandma is going to die of cancer, she realizes there is nothing she can do to prevent it. Have you ever had to deal with a similar situation of losing a loved one? How did you handle it?

In Part Three, Alice's life seems to be better now that she has learned the real reasons for some of the actions her parents and her friends have taken. What do you think she has learned about herself?

Alice discovers that her dad had been lying to her about why he left. Do you think he was right to lie to her? Is it ever good for parents to lie to their kids, especially to teenagers? Why or why not?

Alice learns a lot about friendship when she views her life at age seven. What do you think are the qualities of a true friend? How do you pick your own friends? Why do you think some people allow their friends to take advantage of them?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Penelope Bush's house was built on land that used to be covered with bushes and brambles. She explains, "One day I was walking home and I thought, 'What if, when I get there, it's just a piece of wasteland again and my house isn't there? What if, somehow, I've gone back twenty years and I have to pick up my old life?'" And that's how *Alice in Time* was born. Penelope lives in England. This is her first book. Visit her online at <http://penelopebush.com>.

History/Social Science

Bullying was a big part of Alice's life in Part One, when she was constantly confronted by Sasha and the "cool girls." Bullying is a big issue in today's schools also. How do you deal with bullying? What are important steps to take if you are being bullied by other students? Who can you turn to for help if you should need it?

If you had a chance to use time travel to go back in history, which period would you choose? Why?

If you could go back in time and talk to any historical figure, who would it be? What questions would you ask her/him?