Twelve-year-old Fern feels invisible. It seems as though everyone in her family has better things to do than pay attention to her. If it wasn’t for Ran, Fern’s calm and positive best friend, there’d be nowhere to turn. Ran’s mantra, “All will be well,” is soothing in a way that nothing else seems to be. But then tragedy strikes- and Fern feels not only more alone than ever, but also responsible for the accident that has wrenched her family apart.


About the Author: Acutely aware of the challenges teenagers must face, Jo Knowles has, in the past years, written several acclaimed young adult novels tackling some of the more grueling hurdles, including teenage pregnancy and abuse.

Questions for Discussion

1. Would you call this family dysfunctional at the beginning of the book?
2. What are the problems that each one is struggling with?
3. Each of the children is named after a children’s book character. How are they like and unlike their namesakes?
4. Bullying is an issue in this book. Is bullying a problem at your school? How is it handled?
5. Do gay and lesbian students feel safe and supported at your school?
6. Do you think Fern was too young to be left to watch her little brother? Use evidence from the text to explain why or why not.
7. How did Fern’s relationships with her family and friends change throughout the book?
8. What other books have you read in which a character dies?
9. How is this book similar to or different from those books?
10. How realistic was the characterization?
11. Would you want to meet any of the characters? Did you like them? Hate them?

(Questions issued by library)