

Belzi's Blizzard

By Katharine Johnson

Reading Group Discussion Questions

1. Why is Belzi so angry? Do you think her anger is justified? How does she show it? What else is she feeling?
2. Belzi decides not to like her grandma even before she meets her. Is this fair? Have you ever made up your mind about someone before you got to know them? What made you think you wouldn't like them?
3. Belzi has never had a real home. She has lived in a camper van and traveled from one natural disaster to another. She wants to tame the homeless dog and give it a home. How does this compare with her own situation? What does she learn from the dog?
4. Belzi wants to know why her mother ran away as soon as she graduated from high school. What are some reasons she thinks caused her mother to leave before reading the journals?
5. When Belzi arrives at her grandma's, a blizzard is on its way. When we meet her in the Epilogue, it is summer and the sun is shining. Comment on the role of weather in this story, especially the blizzard.
6. Belzi and her grandmother are stunned and shaken when they read the journal entry about what her mother suffered and the threats she lived with. Both blame themselves. Grandma thinks she should have paid more attention to her daughter instead of working so hard. Belzi wishes she'd never read the journal. Discuss their reactions.