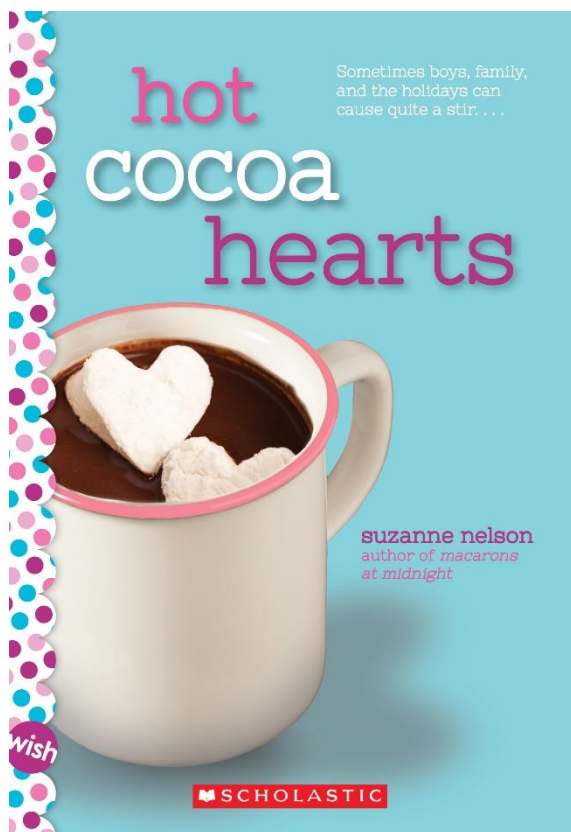

HOT COCOA HEART

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Discussion Questions for HOT COCOA HEARTS

by Suzanne Nelson

Emery Mason is not a fan of the holidays. Unfortunately, this year, Em has to work at her parents' Santa photo booth at the mall. There, Em meets Alejandro Perez, who works at the hot cocoa shop next door. Alex is cute, but he's nothing like Em's real crush—the brooding and artistic Sawyer Kade.

But the more time Em spends with Alex, the more she realizes that she may not be the Grinch she thought she was. Soon, a blizzard and a Secret Santa surprise throw Em's world upside down. Can she embrace the magic of the holidays and find the perfect boy to kiss under the mistletoe?

1. Why does Emery dislike her job working at the Santa booth? How is Alex's perspective about his job different from Em's?
2. How are Alex and Sawyer similar or different? How do Em's feelings about both of them change over the course of the story?
3. Emery's passion is photography. Think of a hobby or topic that you're particularly passionate about. Come up with idea for using your hobby to help out in your home or community. Describe it.
4. Describe Emery's relationship with her grandmother. How does it affect how she feels about the holidays? Describe someone in your life who is special to you like Em's grandmother is special to her.

5. What are a few of the traditions Em's family has during the holiday season? Describe some of your family's special traditions. Why are they important to your family?
6. How do Em's feelings about the holidays change through the course of the story? Why do they change?
7. What happens to the Holly Jolly house during the blizzard. How does Em react?
8. Think of a time when you worked on a community service project to help your town or community. Brainstorm a way you might help your town with its next big community event.
9. Do you think Emery should have chosen Alex or Sawyer as her crush? Why?
10. Design your own Holly Jolly house, or another fun decorating project for your family. See if you can make it happen!