

A Book-Club Discussion Guide for

Summer of Lost and Found

By Rebecca Behrens

About This Book

Nell Dare was looking forward to spending the summer in New York City, eating frozen custard and hanging out in Central Park. Then her father suddenly leaves town, leaving no explanation or clues as to where he went—or why—and Nell’s botanist mom has to drag her all the way to Roanoke Island for a research trip.



While Nell misses the city—and her dad—it doesn't take long for her to become enthralled with the mysteries of Roanoke. Especially when she meets Ambrose, a friendly but eccentric boy who works as a historical reenactor on the island. They explore the area for clues as to what really happened to the lost colonists, staying clear of Lila, a local girl who seems to know everything about the history of the Lost Colony and isn't afraid to make it clear that Roanoke is *her* territory. As Nell and Ambrose discover tantalizing evidence, peculiar things begin to happen—like important artifacts disappearing. Someone—or something—is keeping watch over their quest for answers.

Nell and Ambrose are convinced they are close to finding the truth. But just when they think they might have it all figured out, a huge storm threatens to make them both lost forever . . .

About the Author

Rebecca Behrens grew up in Wisconsin, studied in Chicago, and now lives with her husband in New York City, where she works as a textbook editor. Rebecca loves writing and reading about girls full of moxie and places full of history. She is the author of the middle-grade novel *When Audrey Met Alice*, which *BookPage* called “a terrific work of blended realistic and historical fiction.” For more information about Rebecca—including information on how to arrange a Skype visit for your book club—visit her online at www.rebeccabehrens.com.

Book-Club Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of the story, what does Nell think is going on between her parents? How does Nell feel about it?
2. How does Nell feel about leaving her home in New York City for a summer on Roanoke Island? How do her feelings change once she arrives at the island? Based on her description of the drive and the island, would you want to make the trip?
3. Throughout the book, passages from written account by an unnamed colonist appear. What does that colonist describe? How is his experience of the island similar to and different from Nell's? Do you think those passages added to the overall story?
4. When Nell first meets Lila, she wonders if they could become friends. But tension between the two girls arises quickly. Do you agree with the way Nell feels toward Lila?
5. For what reasons does Nell feel pressure to find the lost colony?
6. The author uses sensory language throughout the book to describe the island. How effective did you think those descriptions were at creating the setting?
7. What did you think happened in Nell's room the night after the Midgetts came over for dinner? When the truth was revealed later in the story, were you right?
8. What comparisons does Nell make between her friendships with Ambrose and Jade? What characteristics do you think a friendship should have?
9. In what ways does Nell communicate with her father throughout the book? How do the Shakespeare quotes help them communicate?
10. At the end of Chapter Twelve, what do you think Ambrose means when he tells Nell, "be not afeard. You'll still be with me"?
11. What explanations does Ambrose give Nell of his behavior? Did that change the way you felt about him as a character, or about his relationship with Nell?
12. How would you characterize the relationship between Nell's parents at the end of the story? Has Nell's family situation changed over the course of the story? How does Nell feel at the end?
13. Mysteries—both big and small— and secrets are a theme throughout the book. Do you agree with the statement, "*Sometimes it's the places we think we know the best that hold the most secrets: our streets, our backyards, and even our homes*" ?
14. Many of the characters in the book keep secrets from each other. How did you feel about the ones Nell's parents kept from her, that Nell kept from her mother, and that Ambrose kept from Nell? How did those secrets affect their relationships?
15. Were you aware of the story of the Lost Colony of Roanoke before reading the book? If so, what theories did you have about what happened to the colonists? Are they the same after reading the book?