



# Guitar Notes by Mary Amato

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## Discussion Questions

1. Tripp and Lyla struggle with guilt. What do Tripp and Lyla each feel guilty about?
2. How are Tripp and Lyla different? How are they alike? How do they help each other?
3. Describe what Tripp means by “thrumming.” Can you relate to this?
4. Discuss the mistakes that you feel each character made.

## Symbolism

Author Mary Amato often chooses symbolic names and/or nicknames in her work. In this book, Tripp calls Lyla “Ms. Even” and Lyla calls Tripp “Mr. Odd.” Discuss the symbolism of these nicknames.

Discuss the importance and symbolism of Tripp’s guitar pick.

## Imagery

Two wedding scenes occur in the book. Compare and contrast the two scenes. What images appear in each scene to show the mood and to amplify Tripp’s emotional state at the time of each scene?

## Character Development

Compare and contrast the relationships between Lyla and her dad and Tripp and his mom at the beginning of the book. How and why do these relationships change at the end?

## The Role of Secondary Characters

Secondary characters often propel a story forward and/or create obstacles for the main character. What does Annie Win want? Describe how Annie’s desires conflict with Lyla’s desires. Describe how Annie’s actions influence Lyla.

Tripp’s father and Lyla’s mother are both deceased. Even though neither is physically present during the time frame of the story, how do these characters influence Tripp and Lyla?

## Tense

Why do you think the author chose to write the novel in the present tense? Discuss the pros and cons of present tense vs. past tense in fiction-writing.

## To Do

Listen to the songs, sing to the karaoke versions, and learn more about songwriting at <http://thrumsociety.com/>

Create your own music video for one of Tripp and Lyla’s songs. If you’d like to share your creation, you can send the link through the contact form on <http://thrumsociety.com/> or post on:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Author-Mary-Amato/97538213374>.