

READING GROUP GUIDE FOR *THE NEXT THING ON MY LIST*

1. Marissa died soon after she lost 100 pounds. Was the timing of this was significant to the story, and if so, in what way?
2. Why do you think the author had June complete someone else's life list and not write it as a woman completing her own?
3. Which items on the list were most challenging to June? Which would you have the hardest time completing? Did any appeal to you?
4. Have you ever written a "life list?" If so, what sort of items were on it, and have you completed any of them? If you haven't, why not?
5. Life lists aim to help people live more dynamically by doing things—how does fit in with your philosophy of what makes a person's life important?
6. After the accident, June says that there are two types of horrible events: the type that make you grab life by the throat and never take it for granted, and the type that make you watch a lot of reality TV. Was her reaction realistic? How would you feel if a passenger died when you were driving?
7. What did you think about the relationship between June and Deedee? How would June's experience have been different if she'd been given the type of "Little Sister" she'd been expecting?
8. At Sebastian's party, guests who learn about the list assume that Marissa must have been unhappy if she was fat. Were they being, as one woman put it, "size-ist?" or it is impossible to be overweight and happy in this society?
9. What characteristics attracted June to Troy? Do you think she would have been drawn to him if he wasn't a traffic reporter? If he wasn't Marissa's brother?
10. Several of the items on the list were open to interpretation—do you think June did it in a way Marissa would have liked? What other ways might she have completed some of the tasks on the list?
11. If someone you loved died (or has died), what dream of his or hers would you most want to see fulfilled? What dream of yours do you fear might never happen if you died suddenly?
12. By the end of the book, June feels that she's changed. What do you think had the biggest impact on her transformation?