

# THIN AIR

## Discussion Questions



1. Emily and the other teens in *Thin Air* are convinced they need to win the scholarship and go to an Ivy League college to have their best chance at success in life. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. When is it good to be driven to succeed? When can it be negative or harmful?
3. What are some ways the characters in *Thin Air* deal with the pressure to succeed in academics, sports, music, etc.? Do you think this type of pressure is common for students? What are some healthy vs. unhealthy ways to handle stress?
4. The characters' past choices come back to haunt them when their secrets are revealed. How would you have reacted in their situation? How much impact do you think our choices now have on our futures?
5. Emily notes that "society doesn't offer a lot of second chances" as she's thinking about her grades. Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. Emily makes some bad decisions early in the story, and later she has to wrestle with whether to admit her mistakes. Why does she ultimately choose to confess? Do you think she deserves another chance? Why or why not?
7. Part of Emily's story is realizing she hasn't taken responsibility for her own life. What past actions or choices demonstrate her lack of agency? How is she determined to change?
8. What does Emily realize about her friendship with Nikki? What makes her decide to fight for their relationship? Do you think they can/ should forgive each other?
9. Which character did you relate most to and why?
10. Was there a character you disliked? Why?
11. If you could fly anywhere in the world for a scholarship competition, where would you go?

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