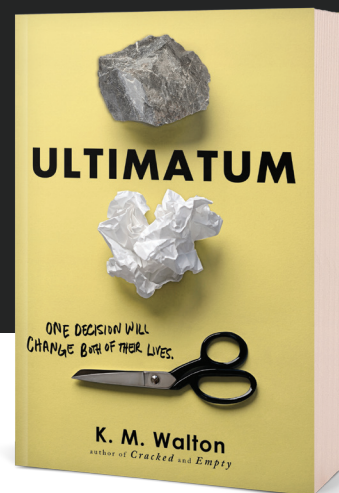


# ULTIMATUM K.M. Walton

## DISCUSSION POINTS AND JOURNAL PROMPTS



**A gripping, emotional story of two brothers who must make the ultimate decision about what's more important—family or their differences.**

It's not Oscar's fault he's misunderstood. Ever since his mother died, he's been disrespected by his father and bullied by his self-absorbed older brother, so he withdraws from his fractured family, seeking refuge in his art.

Vance wishes his younger brother would just loosen up and be cool. It was hard enough to deal with their mother's death without Oscar getting all emotional. At least when Vance pushes himself in lacrosse and parties, he feels alive.

But when alcoholism sends their father into liver failure, the two brothers must come face-to-face with their demons—and each other—if they are going to survive a very uncertain future.

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**“Wow, wow, wow. I am blown away by *Ultimatum*! I found this a powerful book—every minute of it was so painfully real. K.M. speaks her characters' deep emotional truths.”**

—James Howe, bestselling author of *The Misfits*

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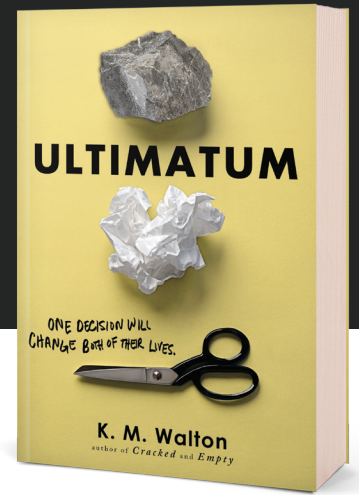
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

K.M. Walton is the author of *Cracked* and *Empty*. As a former middle-school teacher, she's passionate about ending bullying, and her powerful presentations have made an impact on thousands. K.M. is a graduate of West Chester University. She lives in Pennsylvania with her husband, two sons, and cat. Visit her at [kmwalton.com](http://kmwalton.com).



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## DISCUSSION POINTS AND JOURNAL PROMPTS



These discussion points and journal prompts were designed by the author, a former public school educator, to get small group or partner discussions going in your classroom.

### DISCUSSION POINTS

Who do you think was more misunderstood, Oscar or Vance? Why?

Who do you think made the most personal growth by the end of the novel, Oscar or Vance? Why do you think that?

What/who do you think affected Oscar the most during the novel? Why do you think that?

What/who do you think affected Vance the most during the novel? Why do you think that?

If you met Oscar right now, what would you say to him? Why would you say that?

If you met Vance right now, what would you say to him? Why would you say that?

If you were Oscar, how would you have handled your chronically unhappy home life? Why would you do it like that?

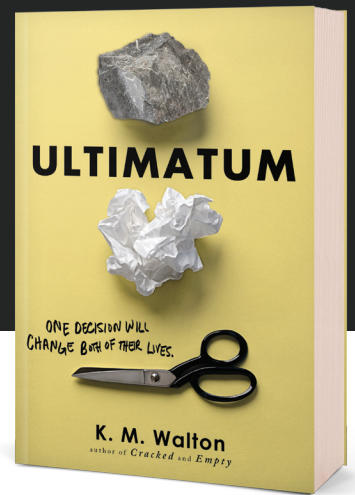
If you were Vance, what could you have done differently as the older brother? Why would you do that?

If you could change anything from the book, what would you change? Why would you change it? How would you change it?



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### JOURNAL PROMPTS

Pretend you are Oscar's best friend and write him a letter of advice.

Pretend you are Vance's best friend (yes, you can pretend to be Growler) and write him a letter of advice.

Do you think of yourself as emotionally understood by others? Why or why not?

Draw and label a group portrait of your favorite characters from the book. Make sure the labels reflect facts or parts found in the book.

Describe a time you were faced with an ultimatum. What choice did you make? How did it make you feel? Would you do it again? Why or why not?

Make a chart comparing and contrasting the characters of Oscar and Vance.

Using sketches, drawings, or words, create a collage to represent the main themes/crucial moments in *Ultimatum*.

Write a letter as if you were either Oscar or Vance, to yourself as if you were friends. The letter can ask for advice or tell about a problem or experience.

Describe your favorite part of *Ultimatum*. Explain why it's your favorite part.

A novel's plot is the central problem or idea that the story is based on. The subplot is made up of smaller events within the story that help move the plot forward and may help solve the problem. Write several sentences describing the plot and subplot of *Ultimatum*.

Oscar's and Vance's feelings change throughout the book, especially when they face challenges. Make a three-column chart to show how either Oscar OR Vance change their feelings from the beginning, to the middle, and then finally in the end of the book. Be sure to explain why the change happens each time.

