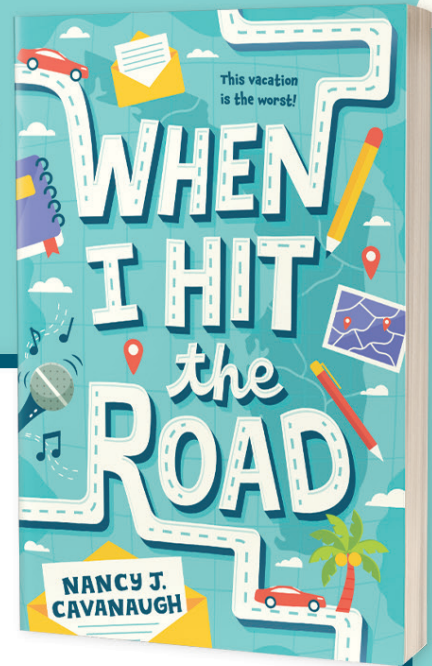


WHEN I HIT the ROAD

DISCUSSION GUIDE

NANCY J.
CAVANAUGH



From the author of the award-winning *This Journal Belongs to Ratchet* comes a new kind of journal by a girl on a madcap road trip, featuring a karaoke-loving grandma, a cute boy, and a wild summer of memories that will last a lifetime.

Samantha is not exactly excited to spend her entire summer vacation in Florida with her grandma. Or to have to write to her future self in the journal her mom insists she use. But it turns out that Gram has some not-so-boring plans up her sleeve...

Gram and her friend Mimi are going to audition for the Seniors Got Talent karaoke contest!

A road trip in Gram's new Mustang turns into a series of hilarious mishaps that flip Samantha's summer on its head, especially because an unexpected person is sharing the ride.

It looks like her journal might be worth keeping after all because this summer will be one Samantha will never want to forget.

Middle Grade Fiction | Ages 8+ | Grades 3–8



About the Author

Nancy J. Cavanaugh is the award-winning author of *This Journal Belongs to Ratchet* and *Always, Abigail*, which was a Texas Bluebonnet Award nominee. She has a bachelor of science in education and a master's in curriculum and instruction. She was an elementary school teacher for more than fifteen years as well as a library media specialist. When Nancy isn't on a road trip, she lives in the Chicago area with her husband and daughter and the cutest, five-pound cockapoo anyone has ever seen. Visit nancyjcavanaugh.com.



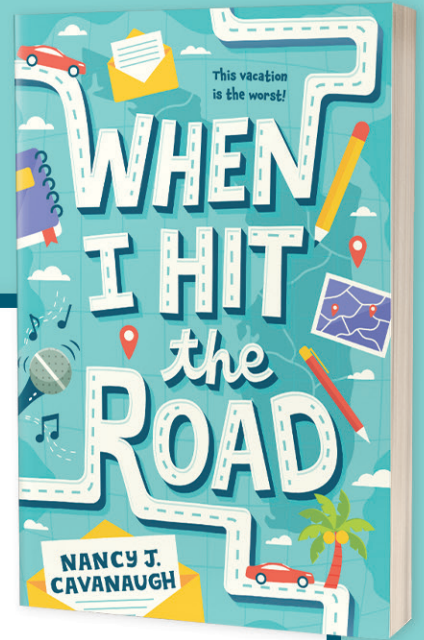
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which character in the book is your favorite? Explain why.
2. Why does Samantha tell her story through “Dear Me” letters?
3. Does the “Dear Me” letter format impact the story? Explain why or why not.
4. Why does Samantha use so many sixth-grade vocabulary words in her writing?
5. Have you ever felt like Samantha? Have you ever felt like Brandon?
6. Does each character learn something about themselves by going on the road trip? If yes, what does each person learn?
7. Has there ever been a time when you learned something from a trip you took? If yes, tell about the trip and what you learned.
8. What was the funniest part of the book? The saddest? The most significant?
9. Would you like to have been with Samantha and Brandon on the road trip? Explain why or why not.
10. How does Samantha’s relationship with her mom change from the beginning of the story to the end?
11. Do you like Samantha more at the end of the story? If yes, explain why.
12. Is there anything you learned about yourself from Samantha’s story?

