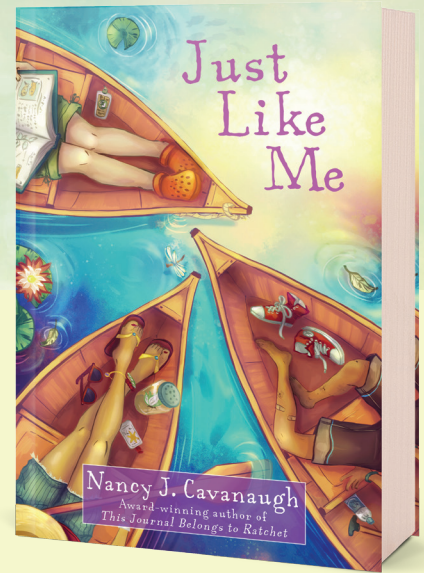


Just Like Me Discussion Guide

By Nancy J. Cavanaugh



Who eats Cheetos with chopsticks?!

Avery and Becca, my “Chinese sisters,” that’s who. We’re not really sisters—we were just adopted from the same orphanage. And we’re nothing alike. They like egg rolls, and I like pizza. They wave around Chinese fans, and I pretend like I don’t know them.

Which is not easy since we’re all going to summer camp to “bond.” (Thanks, Mom.) To make everything worse, we have to journal about our time at camp so the adoption agency can do some kind of “where are they now” newsletter. I’ll tell you where I am: at Camp Little Big Woods in a cabin with five other girls who aren’t getting along, competing for a camp trophy and losing (badly), wondering how I got here...and where I belong.

“A red thread connects this energetic summer camp story with Julia’s deeper journey to accept herself, her adoption, and her Chinese roots.”

—Megan McDonald, award-winning and bestselling author of the Judy Moody series and Sisters Club trilogy

“Charming and refreshingly wholesome.”

—*School Library Journal*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

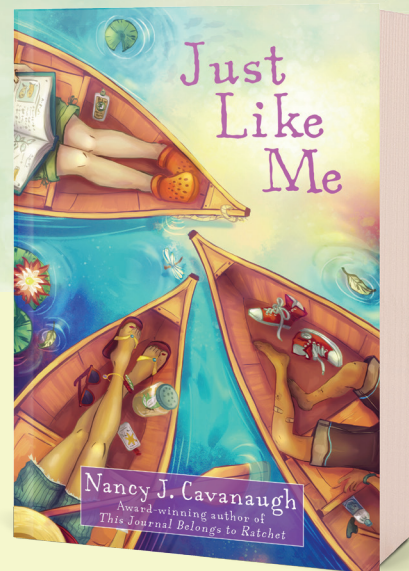
Nancy J. Cavanaugh is the award-winning author of *This Journal Belongs to Ratchet* and *Always, Abigail*. She has a BS in education and an MA in curriculum and instruction and was an elementary and middle school teacher for more than fifteen years, as well as a Library Media Specialist. She and her husband and daughter enjoy winters in sunny Florida and eat pizza in Chicago the rest of the year.

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1. Which character is most like you? Explain why.
2. Which character is least like you? Explain why.
3. Does Camp Little Big Woods sound like a place you would like to go? Explain why.
4. Do you think the girls in the story would have become friends if they hadn't gotten into that dish room water fight?
5. Why do Julia and Gina become such good friends?
6. Do the life collages made in the arts and crafts room symbolize anything?
7. What do the friendship bracelets at the end of the story symbolize?
8. What is the significance of the red thread proverb being mentioned throughout the book?
9. Would the story have been different if Julia had not been writing in the "Ms. Marcia Journal"? Explain your answer.
10. How does the story make you feel about your own heritage?
11. Does the book make you think and feel differently about adoption? Explain your answer.
12. Julia pretended something was true about her blanket even though she knew it wasn't. Has there ever been a time when you pretended something you knew wasn't true?
13. How does Julia change from the beginning of the book to the end?
14. How will each of the character's lives be different after their week at Camp Little Big Woods?
15. Why do you think the author wrote *Just Like Me*?