



## Discussion Questions for *Half a Chance* by Cynthia Lord

Lucy wants to enter a photography contest. As she looks for the perfect subjects for her photos, she gets to know Nate, the boy next door. But slowly the camera reveals what Nate doesn't want to see: his grandmother's memory is slipping away. Nate will learn about the power of art to show truth and Lucy will learn how beauty can change lives...including her own.

1. Lucy always takes a picture of her first day in a new place so she can reflect on it later. Why does Lucy do this?
2. Lucy's father believes that it's important to photograph beautiful things as well as things that are more difficult to look at. Think about a picture you've seen of something beautiful and one of something difficult to look at. How do they each make you feel?
3. Why do you think the loons are so important to Grandma Lilah?
4. Nate is worried about Grandma Lilah and feels like he is missing things that aren't even gone yet. Why do you think he feels this way?
5. Lucy and Nate talk about freezing the perfect day. Think of a perfect day that happened in the past. Explain why you would freeze that day.
6. Do you think Nate has a reason to be mad at Lucy for taking the "Lost" picture of Grandma Lilah? How would that situation make you feel if you were Nate or Grandma Lilah?
7. If you were Lucy, would you use the "Lost" picture of Grandma Lilah in the competition? Why or why not?
8. Why do you think the photography contest was so important to Lucy?
9. How do Meagan and Lucy feel about each other in the beginning of the book? How do they feel toward the end of the book?
10. Lucy only takes a few pictures of Grandma Lilah on the pontoon boat. Why does she stop taking pictures?