

Reading Group Guide for
The Key to Everything
by Valerie Fraser Luesse

(Spoiler alert—these questions assume you've already read the book)

1. Peyton Cabot's particular circumstances are extraordinary, but what elements of his experience do you think are universal to all young people transitioning to adulthood?
2. Who do you feel is the hero of this story—Peyton, his father, or his mother? Why?
3. Of all the people Peyton encounters on his bike ride down the Atlantic Coast, which is your favorite and why?
4. Do you think Finn is a good influence or a bad one? Why?
5. Which episode from Peyton's journey says the most about the kind of person he is becoming?
6. Do you think it's possible for a place to change a person forever? Has it ever happened to you?
7. What intrigues you most about a story—what the main character is doing or what they're thinking and feeling? Why?
8. Why do you think Peyton is so drawn to Lisa? Does it have anything to do with his family experience, or is it just a young man's attraction to a beautiful girl?
9. Besides your parents, do you have a relative who has influenced you as Aunt Gert influences Peyton and his mother? If so, in what ways?
10. Why do you think Peyton comes to believe that the Cabots—his own family—aren't a real family at all?