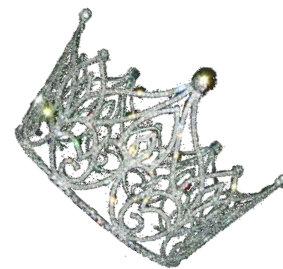


## Dumplin by Julie Murphy Book Discussion Questions



1. How do you feel about how much Willowdean's mother places her sense of worth in other people's opinions?
2. Why do you think that once Willowdean began a romantic relationship with Bo that she felt less sure of her body and started to engage in the kind of judgement she was previously proud to shy away from?
3. Willowdean asks how she can have both days where she is self conscious and days when she genuinely doesn't care about what her body looks like. What would your answer be?
4. What does it mean to you to "be your own role model"?
5. What would it look like to accept that sometimes we still think and feel cruel things, like when Willowdean feels inner-gee over the girls who come out shaken up by the interview, but that those moments don't have to define us?
6. What would your ideal beauty pageant look like?
7. Again and again characters who are the happiest or the most satisfied are those who are comfortable in their own skin. Ellen, Dolly Parton, Millie- they are all proud of who they are. Would you say that confidence is one of the biggest aspects of beauty? If so, why?
8. Did you notice that Willowdean's specific weight or clothing size was never mentioned? Why do you think that is?
9. "You don't deserve to win anything or be in any pageant until you make the effort and do the work. Maybe fat girls or girls with limbs or girls with big teeth don't usually win beauty pageants. Maybe that's the norm. But the only way to change that is to be present. We can't expect the same things these other girls do until we demand it."
10. We never find out who won the pageant. Who do you think won the pageant and why? Why do think the author chose to leave out that information?
11. "I've wasted a lot of time in my life. I've thought too much about what people say or what they're gonna think...there of been times when I really stopped myself from doing something special. All because I was scared someone might look at me and decide I wasn't good enough. But you don't have to bother with that nonsense. I wasted all that time so you don't have to." This is a quote from the book..Has there ben a time in your life where you felt this way?