

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Simon Sort of Says Discussion Questions

1. This book is about a hard topic to talk about. When you were reading, what did you learn about the experience of survivors from the story?
2. Simon feels lucky to have Agate and Kevin in his new life in Grin and Bear It, Nebraska. What are some of the benefits he experiences from having these friendships?
3. Describe the role that religion plays in Simon's life. Do you think Simon would describe himself as religious?
4. How does Simon relate to the Catholic saints he talks about in the novel? Are there real-life people in your life or in history that you think are also defined or remembered for their trauma?
5. Simon has many coping mechanisms. How does he use humour to cope with his anxiety and trauma? What were some of your favourite funny moments in the story?
6. Simon has trouble saying no, what does this tell you about her character?
7. Simon defines himself as the Simon he is now, trying not to be the Simon he was then. Why do you think this is important to him? How do his friends react to this type of thinking, especially Agate?
8. What role does Hercules play in Simon's life? Why do you think that Agate chose that puppy for Simon?
9. What is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)? What do you learn about PTSD from the novel? Where could you find more information?

