

## Book Club Discussion Guide



*Eight Days by Teresa Toten, Page 1 (May 2022)*

# Eight Days

By Teresa Toten

## About the author:

Teresa's earliest and most fervent ambition was to grow up and take her rightful place among the other mermaids, that is until cruel and insensitive adults crushed that dream by insisting that mermaids did not exist. So, in the end, Teresa went to Trinity College at the University of Toronto where she got a BA and then an MA in Political Economy. The only thing Teresa knew for sure was that she was never ever going to be a writer. That would be silly, fanciful and well, unrealistic.

Today, Teresa is a multiple award winning author whose work has been translated into a dozen different languages and sold around the world. She is obsessed with writing, and is grateful for the privilege of having supportive and vocal readers! And sometimes, when there is a purple sky and the writing is going really well... she believes that being a writer is almost as good as being a mermaid.

Source: Author's website: (<http://www.teresatoten.com/>)

## About this book:

I texted Nilofer and promised to stay  
in touch every step of the way.  
She texted back eight lines of hearts.  
Eight was our secret lucky number.  
Eight was unbreakable, two circles intertwined.  
Unbreakable, unbreakable, I am unbreakable.

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Sami Stanic isn't a crier. She's found it's better to be useful, so people keep you around. It's worked for the past ten years that she has lived with her grandfather.

But when unexpected news shakes her world, Sami comes face to face with her deepest fears. Is there anywhere she really belongs? If people knew where she came from, could they still love her?

From the towers of Toronto's Thorncliffe Park to Chicago's south side, and back again, Sami and an unusual entourage set off on an eight-day journey that will change her life forever. Along the sometimes heart-wrenching, often hilarious way, Sami uncovers painful secrets – but also the truths that shine a warm light on what home and family really mean.

*Source: Publisher's website (<https://www.scholastic.ca/>)*

### Discussion Questions:

1. What did you enjoy about this book?
2. What have you read that is similar to this book?
3. What are some of the major themes of this book?
4. What do you think the author was trying to accomplish with this novel?
5. Who was your favorite character? What did you appreciate about him/her?
6. Think about one of the minor characters in the story. Why did the author include him/her?

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7. Is the setting of the story important to the book? In what ways?
8. Are you satisfied with the ending? Why or why not?
9. Have you ever experienced anything similar to the action of this novel?
10. Did you find this book a quick read? Why or why not?
11. What were your concerns about this book?
12. What scene do you remember best? Why do you think that is?
13. If this book was made into a movie, who would you cast in the title roles?
14. If the book you are discussing has chapter titles, take a second look. Why do you think the author selected those titles? Are they hints to what's going to come in the chapter? Are there any that didn't make sense?

Source: Multnomah County Library (<https://multcolib.org/talk-it-book-groups-kids>)