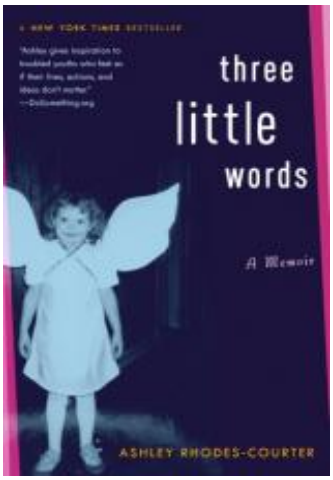
ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

Three Little Words: A Memoir

by Ashley Rhodes-Courter



About the Book

n/a

Discussion Guide

1.What are the three little words of the title? Are these the words that you expected? Why are they so significant to Ashley and to the story? Do you think that Ashley would change these three words if she could?

2.Why did fighting the Mosses become so important to Ashley? What was she hoping to gain? Was Gay and Phil's reaction to her efforts fair? Was the end result worth the effort?

3.Ashley was always acting out toward Gay, and made a point of doing things that would anger or hurt her adopted mother. Why did she act this way toward Gay but not toward Phil? How did Gay's reaction to all this affect Ashley's behavior? Why did Ashley eventually stop acting this way? Was her behavior markedly different from a "normal" teenager's?

4.Why did Ashley drug Gay and Phil? Why did getting caught upset her? Did her reasons for being upset change?

5.Did Ashley always feel responsible for Luke's happiness and well-being? Is it fair to think that she should have?

6.Was Lorraine a bad mother? Did various people perceive her mothering skills differently? Did her ability to be a good mother change over the years?

7.The officials took Ashley and Luke away from their mother to keep them safe. Did this work? In what ways would they have been better off with their mother? What did they lose when they became foster children?

8.Toward the end of the book, Ashley seemed to reconnect with her extended biological family more quickly and easily than with her mother. Why do you think this is?

9.Were all of Ashley's experiences with foster families bad? Was there anything positive about her time in the system? Who was looking out for her? Who failed her?

10. How did Ashley get involved with writing and public speaking? Why was this important to her?

Author Bio

Ashley Rhodes-Courter has been featured in *Teen People*, *The New York Times*, *USA TODAY* and *Glamour*, as well as on *Good Morning America*. Her first memoir, *Three Little Words*, began as an essay, which won a writing contest for high school students, and was published in *The New York Times Magazine* . She is also the author of *Three More Words*. A graduate of Eckerd College and a champion for the reformation of the foster care system, Ashley speaks internationally on foster care and adoption.

Three Little Words: A Memoir

by Ashley Rhodes-Courter

Publication Date: January 8, 2008
Hardcover: 320 pages
Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers
ISBN-10: 1416948066
ISBN-13: 9781416948063