

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHORS

Jodi Picoult and SAMANTHA VAN LEER

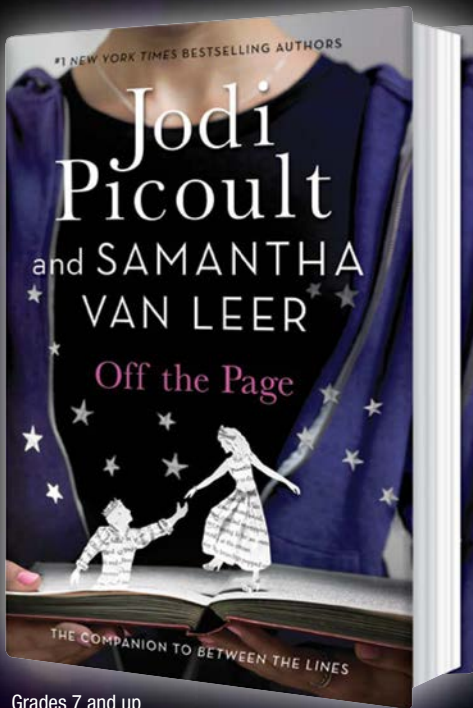
Off the Page



This guide includes Discussion Questions, Creative Writing Connections that correlate to the Common Core, and a special section for Mother-Daughter Book Clubs!

THE COMPANION TO *BETWEEN THE LINES*

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB



Grades 7 and up

HC: 978-0-553-53556-3

EL: 978-0-553-53558-7

ABOUT THE BOOK

From #1 *New York Times* bestselling authors Jodi Picoult and her daughter and coauthor, Samantha van Leer, comes *OFF THE PAGE*, a tender and appealing romantic YA novel filled with humor, adventure, and magical relationships.

Meet Oliver, a prince literally taken from the pages of a fairy tale and transported into the real world. Meet Delilah, the girl who wished Oliver into being. It's a miracle that seems perfect at first—but there are complications. To exist in Delilah's world, Oliver must take the place of a regular boy. Enter Edgar, who agrees to play Oliver's role in the pages of Delilah's favorite book. But just when it seems that the plan will work, everything gets turned upside down.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

JODI PICOULT is the author of twenty-three novels, including the #1 *New York Times* bestsellers *Leaving Time*, *The Storyteller*, *Lone Wolf*, *Sing You Home*, *House Rules*, *Handle with Care*, *Change of Heart*, *Nineteen Minutes*, and *My Sister's Keeper*. She also cowrote the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Between the Lines*, the companion to *Off the Page*, with her daughter, Samantha van Leer. Jodi lives in New Hampshire with her husband and three children. Visit her online at jodipicoult.com.

SAMANTHA VAN LEER is a sophomore at Vassar College majoring in psychology with a minor in human development. She cowrote the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Between the Lines*, the companion to *Off the Page*, with her mother, Jodi Picoult.

Full of humor and witty commentary about life, *OFF THE PAGE* is a stand-alone novel as well as the companion to the authors' bestseller, *Between the Lines*, and is perfect for readers looking for a fairy-tale ending. Fans of Sarah Dessen and Meg Cabot are sure to appreciate this novel about love, romance, and relationships.



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Jodi and Samantha have four dogs: Alvin, Harvey, Dudley, and Oliver, for whom the prince in this story is named.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The discussion questions for the mother-daughter book club focus on themes particularly relevant to mother-daughter relationships. Each theme includes a set of questions addressed to daughters and a corresponding set of questions addressed to mothers.

Book clubs can use these questions to structure discussions in which daughters share first and then mothers respond, or mother-daughter pairs can share their responses to each set of questions. The questions may also be used in any order to facilitate general discussion of themes in the novel.



FINGERPRINTS

While inside the fairy tale, Edgar becomes aware of the ways in which his mother has influenced his world, saying, “My mother created this book; her fingerprints are bound to be all over it” (p. 41).

DAUGHTERS

- Where do you see your mother’s influence in your life?
- What “fingerprints” has she left on you or your world?
- What characteristics do you and your mother share?

MOTHERS

- What are some ways in which you have influenced your daughter?
- In what ways are the two of you similar, and in what ways are you different?

ADVICE

When Oliver struggles to resolve his fight with Delilah, he discusses love and relationships with Jessamyn. She advises him to apologize, telling him, “Of course I’m right; I’m your mother” (p. 77).

DAUGHTERS

- Why do you think Oliver seeks advice from Jessamyn, the woman who created him, instead of from his friends?
- Do you agree with the counsel she gives Oliver about love and relationships?
- Has your mother ever given you similar advice?

MOTHERS

- What advice would you give to your own child in a similar situation?
- Have you ever said, “Of course I’m right; I’m your mother”?



MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED . . .

EXPECTATIONS

Edgar observes, “It’s hard to believe that I could be just as much of a disappointment in the world of this book as I was in reality” (p. 48). Later, in a conversation with Jules, Edgar says, “I guess neither of us lived up to our parents’ expectations, huh?” (p. 195).

DAUGHTERS

- Why does Edgar believe that he is a disappointment to his mother?
- Do you think Edgar has an accurate view of himself?
- Have you ever felt like Edgar does?

MOTHERS

- How do you think Edgar’s mother sees him, compared to how he sees himself?
- Why might they have different perspectives?
- Think of your own role as a parent; how do your children know what your expectations for them are?

COMFORT

Delilah reflects, “The thing about a mom is that she’s always there” (p. 299). Think about the mother figures in the novel—Mrs. McPhee, Jessamyn, and Queen Maureen—and how each provides strength and comfort during times of stress.

DAUGHTERS

- How does Delilah’s mother help her when she struggles in her romance with Oliver? (See pp. 91 and 242 for examples.)
- How does Jessamyn offer comfort to Edgar after the death of his father and her own terminal diagnosis?
- How does Queen Maureen demonstrate her care for Oliver?
- What are some ways your own mother has been there for you during difficult times?

MOTHERS

- What are the sacrifices that each of these mother figures makes for her child?
- How do Delilah, Oliver, and Edgar understand and appreciate these sacrifices?
- What are some ways they reciprocate love and care to their mothers?
- How do you and your daughter care for each other during difficult times?



HOME

The narrator of the story writes that “There’s a difference between a house and a home. . . . That’s because home isn’t where you are. It’s who you’re with” (p. 364).

DAUGHTERS

- What do you think the narrator means by this observation?
- How does it apply to your own family or relationships?
- Who are the people who make you feel like you’re “home”?

MOTHERS

- How does the meaning of this quote change or deepen when you learn that the narrator is Jessamyn, Edgar’s mother?
- How do you define “home” in your own life?
- How do you define it for your daughter, or for your family?



MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB ACTIVITIES

PHOTO ALBUM

“Delilah’s mom strokes the cover of the photo album as if she would rather give up her life than lose what’s inside” (p. 56).

Delilah’s mother delights in sharing old photographs of her daughter. Before the book club meeting, review old family photo albums together as a mother-daughter team. Have each mother select a favorite photograph from her daughter’s childhood and each daughter select a favorite picture of her mother to bring to the book club. At the meeting, share the chosen photographs, describe the story behind each image, and explain its meaning to you.

FAIRY TALE

“My mother turns, her face filled with wonder. ‘These were all my stories,’ she murmurs. ‘The ones I never wrote down’” (p. 351).

Both Delilah’s and Edgar’s mothers create narratives for their children—Delilah’s through photo albums, and Edgar’s through the fairy tale she writes about Oliver. As a mother-daughter team, use a combination of prose and pictures to write and illustrate your own family’s story in the form of a fairy tale.

MOVIE NIGHT

“At this moment, all I want is to get under a pile of blankets and watch a classic Disney movie with my mom” (p. 242).

When she is most in need of understanding and comfort, Delilah spends time with her mother, watching movies. Together, pick out a movie and share a mother-daughter date night.

Greetings from THE REAL WORLD



Hello there!

My name is Oliver. I'm a prince who's a fictional character in a fairy tale – or was, until this amazing young woman named Delilah helped me escape from the pages and enter the real world. Now that I'm here, I live in Delilah's town in the kingdom of New Hampshire, where I'm gobsmacked daily by all the things I encounter – like cell phones and buffalo wings and Lady Gaga. It's sometimes bewildering but also quite fun, and on a scale of one to ten, it's been a 500!

But that's just the beginning. Follow me as I continue my adventures in your strange world on YouTube, which involves me, not you. Nevertheless, you can find me there!

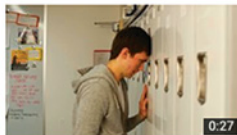
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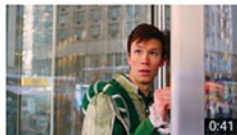
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Prince Oliver On High School
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Prince Oliver Gets Locked Out!
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Prince Oliver Tries to Make an Entrance
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Prince Oliver's Adventures in the Real World
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