

Reader's Guide
For
Alive and Well in Prague, New York
by
Daphne Grab
A Debut Young Adult Novel

About the Book

Alive and Well in Prague, New York tells the story of Matisse Osgood, a sixteen year old girl whose family has moved to a small town in upstate New York. Matisse, a true city girl at heart, finds her new life to be a disaster of epic proportions. But underneath her anger at the family's new home lies the truly unbearable: Matisse's father has Parkinson's Disease. Matisse tries to hide from the painful reality of her dad's terminal illness, distracting herself with dating and avoiding her old friends who know the truth. But ultimately the relationships she forms in Prague help her gain the strength to accept her father's condition and find places of goodness in her life.

About the Author

Daphne Grab grew up in a small town in upstate New York. She has worked a number of jobs including teaching high school history, building houses for Habitat for Humanity and teaching ESL in China. She also earned an MFA in Creative Writing at the New School. In 1998 she moved to New York City where she discovered that she has always been a city girl at heart. She lives there now with her husband and children.

Discussion Questions

1. Which character would you most like to know in real life? What would you do if you hung out together?
2. What is something that you would have done differently if you were in Matisse's shoes?
3. What do you think happens to the characters after the book ends?
4. What character are you most like in the story and why? Which character is the least like you and why?
5. Over the course of the book Matisse learns to accept her father's illness. How have you coped with difficult things in your own life?

Activity

Out of all the cities and towns in the world, which is the one you would hate to live in the most? Imagine that your family has just moved there and write a story about your first day there.