

Discussion questions for [*How I Became a Teenage Survivalist*](#) by Julie L. Casey

1. Immediately after the students in Bracken's class heard the initial big explosion on PF Day, what did they fear had happened?
2. Why didn't Bracken know Skylar very well, even though they had known each other almost all their lives? How is it possible to feel you know someone without really knowing him or her?
3. What things did Bracken's family already have that gave them an advantage for survival after PF Day? (Examples: fireplace, harvested grain, hunting equipment, water well, chickens etc.)
4. What things did they acquire that aided their survival? (Examples: livestock, wood-burning stove, horse-drawn farming equipment, etc.)
5. What things did they make to aid their survival? (Examples: solar bottle light, solar water heater, solar heat exchangers, etc.)
6. How did the townspeople pull together to help each other survive? (Examples: town market, stoves made from old water heaters, specialization and trading of skills, etc.)
7. What were some of the long-term consequences of PF Day for society in terms of physical, emotional, and financial problems? (Examples: millions of deaths, post-traumatic stress, financial meltdown, etc.)
8. How did Bracken, Alex, and Calvin change throughout the story? What specific things made you aware of those changes?
9. How did Bracken and his family perceive Ben's personality while he stayed with them?
10. How did the presence of Bracken's grandparents help the family?
11. How did the death of Robin's dad, the near-fatal appendicitis of the little boy in town, and Robin's difficult childbirth affect Bracken's mom's confidence in her medical knowledge?
12. What did people speculate about baby Joey's unusually large head and intelligence?