

# Purple Trees and a Will to Believe: Comprehension Questions

## Chapters 9-13

### Chapter 9

1. God doesn't intervene with \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What emotion is Nenek feeling when she arrives with Grandma to pick up Sybille and her brothers? Why does she feel this way?
3. What does Sybille want in place of an apology from Grandma and Nenek?
4. How does Sybille feel about pierced ears after her stay in the hospital?
5. How does Sybille feel about having her blood drawn? How does she help Solomon get over his fear when Nurse Patty comes in to draw HIS blood?

### Chapter 10

1. Where is Sybille's favorite spot to write poetry?
2. How does Sybille describe nature?
3. What does Sybille think of the mass shooting that was shown on TV?
4. What does Sybille ask God for?
5. Why was it hard to feel sad when she walked in the house?
6. What does Sybille check off her wish list?

7. What does Sybille re-think? Why?
8. What promise does Sybille make to God in exchange for Him helping her sort through 'big feelings'?

## **Chapter 11**

1. Did Dad plead guilty or not guilty to the child abuse charges against him? How does Sybille feel after hearing what Dad had to say to the charges against him?
2. When is Sybille allowed to return to school?
3. How does Kelly Ann react to hearing about the abuse?
4. Who flies down from Texas, Vermont, and Maine?
5. What does Sybille want to be when she grows up?
6. What does Sybille want planted in her backyard when she owns her own house someday?
7. How many kids does Sybille want to have when she grows up?
8. What continues to 'creep' Sybille out?
9. Who does Sybille think has her best interest at heart?
10. What religion does Sybille now identify with?
11. What does Sybille get when she goes shopping at the mall with Grandma and Nenek?

12. Do you think it matters more who you are on the INSIDE or the OUTSIDE? Why?

## Chapter 12

1. What do you think is so powerful about Sybille's letter to Dad?
2. How does Sybille end her letter to Dad? If you were in Sybille's shoes, how would YOU have ended a letter to Dad?
3. What was the verdict published by the clerk?
4. Dad was sentenced to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. How did Dad appear when he was taken away in handcuffs?
6. What is Sybille's first impression of Taylor, the professional body piercer who works at the tattoo parlor in town?
7. How is Sybille feeling about getting her ears pierced? Why do you think she feels this way?
8. How does the music spinning in the background at the tattoo parlor help set the "cool" vibe, as described by Sybille herself?
9. How does Taylor's bedside manner help put Sybille at ease and calm her nerves?
10. What is unique about Sybille getting her ears pierced in comparison with Dad's beatings or Nurse Patty drawing blood at the hospital?

## Chapter 13

1. Who does Sybille say has given her the best guidance of all?
2. How does Sybille describe herself?
3. Who is God to Sybille? What role does he play in her life?
4. What happened to Grandma and Nenek's properties?

5. What advice does Grandma give Sybille regarding visiting Dad in prison?
6. When does Sybille say she will reevaluate visiting Dad in prison?