

Shiver

Discussion Questions

1. Temperature is very important in this story. In some ways, it seems to be the most important element in their environment for the characters. Each chapter even includes the temperature in the chapter header. Why is temperature so important? How does it affect the story? How does the author remind readers of the importance of the temperature as they are reading?
2. Grace's parents are extremely neglectful, and seem to be more interested in their own relationship than in a relationship with their daughter. Do you think they cross the line to abuse?
3. How did Sam's parents react when he was turned? What kind of parents were they before he was changed? Why do you think they reacted the way that they did?
4. Grace and Sam are both products of their upbringing, Grace of her neglectful parents, and Sam of his "pack." How do you think they would have been different with different parents? Do you believe that Sam's generosity and introspection is a product of his parents or of his natural personality? What about Grace's stoicism and kindness? Which is more important, nurture or nature?
5. Sam regards becoming a wolf as the worst possible outcome, while Beck seems to be more pragmatic about it and Olivia seems to even embrace it. Why do you think they feel differently? How would you feel?
6. Why wasn't Grace turned when she was attacked as a child? What characteristics does she share with the wolves? Would she have fallen for Sam if she didn't have such a strong connection to the wolves?
7. Beck changed three teens into werewolves to continue the care of the pack after he and Sam became wolves for good. Sam is horrified by his decision; Grace slightly less so, especially once she finds out that he had their consent. Do you think Beck was justified in taking such drastic steps to ensure caretakers for the wolves? What other options did he have?
8. There are many different kinds of love in *Shiver*: that between Grace and Sam, Grace and her friends, Isabel and her brother, Beck and Sam, Beck and Ulrik. What do you think draws each of these groups together? Do you think Grace and Sam's love is healthy or not? Where do you draw the line with obsession? How long does it take to fall in love?
9. Consent is an important theme in *Shiver*: whether an event or person is viewed positively or negatively in the book is often framed by whether they act on other people's wishes or in spite of them. Sam was changed into a werewolf against his will, as was Olivia. The teens that Beck bit were changed with their consent. Sam didn't press himself into Grace's life until invited; Grace injected Sam with a deadly disease with his permission. Discuss other instances of choices given and choices taken away. Is it ever OK to do something to someone without their consent?
10. Do you think Sam is really cured at the end of the book? What do you think will happen in the next book?

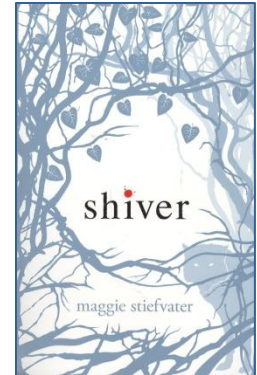
In Her Own Words

Maggie Stiefvater

All of my life decisions have been based around my inability to be gainfully employed. Talking to yourself, staring into space, and coming to work in your pajamas are frowned upon when you're a waitress, calligraphy instructor, or technical editor (all of which I've tried), but are highly prized traits in novelists, musicians, and artists (I've made my living as one of these since I was 22).



I now live an eccentric life in the middle of nowhere, Virginia, with my charmingly straight-laced husband, two small kids, two neurotic dogs, one criminally insane cat, and a 1973 Camaro named Loki.



I'm an avid reader, an award-winning colored pencil artist, and play several musical instruments, including the Celtic harp, the piano, and the bagpipes. I also make great cocktail party conversation.

Biographical information was found at <http://www.maggiestiefvater.com/>.