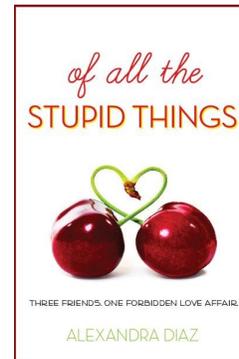


Reader Guide

Title: Of All the Stupid Things
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This reader guide may be duplicated for classroom, book club discussion group, or related purposes.

Author biography: Alexandra Diaz is a Cuban-American spending her time between Santa Fe, NM and the rest of the world. She has an MA in Writing for Young People and has led various workshops since she was fourteen. She is a “jenny of all trades” having worked as a nanny, teacher, film extra, tour guide, and dairy goat judge (seriously) among several other jobs. In addition to traversing the world, she enjoys hiking, swing dancing, and the prospect of flying.

Discussion questions:

- ❖ Is Tara a hypocrite for getting together with Riley after what Brent possibly did?
- ❖ What is it about Nash that makes Pinkie not interested in him anymore?
- ❖ Are Whitney Blaire’s manipulation ploys the best way to achieve what she wants?
- ❖ Why is Tara so focused on running?
- ❖ How is Pinkie’s past a reflection on how she is now?
- ❖ What are the pros and cons of Whitney Blaire’s family life?

Writing activities and projects:

The novel starts with a rumor and the result of it threatens to tear the girls apart. Without naming names or pointing accusatory fingers, write a mini story about a rumor that would cause a stir in school and the consequences of said rumor.

Written in the voices of the three female protagonists, how would the story be different if it were told in the perspective of David, Riley, Brent, or another character? Write a few paragraphs and find out.

Each of the characters has her own ideas on good dietary practice. Create a menu that would reflect what each of the girls is likely to eat on a given day.