

Study Questions for “Camper Girl” by Glenn Erick Miller

1. In the prologue, Shannon refuses her aunt Rebecca’s offer to travel with her. What might have happened if she had said *yes*? Describe a major decision you’ve made. How would your life change if you had made a different decision?
2. The first two scenes take place on the roof outside of Shannon’s bedroom, one year apart. How are these scenes different? How are they similar? How has Shannon changed during that year?
3. Shannon describes the birthday gifts from her mother, Jess, and Kenny as “things to help me change.” How is the gift from her father different? What’s a gift you received that made you feel hurt?
4. There is a strong cultural expectation to attend college immediately after high school. Nearly two-thirds of high school graduates attend college the following year. Explain Shannon’s internal struggle with these expectations. How do her views change throughout the book? What are your goals after high school?
5. When Shannon initially explores the camper, a sudden rainstorm hits and she seeks shelter in the camper as opposed to following her parents to the house. What is significant about this action?
6. Rebecca relies on handwritten maps rather than GPS to direct Shannon on her journey. She also forgoes the use of a cell phone. How else does technology play a role in the story? How would you describe Shannon’s relationship to technology?
7. Animals play a significant role in the book, from the bear and deer that Shannon encounters to the stuffed moose that she names *Dog*. How do Shannon’s interactions with these animals change over time?
8. Shannon journeys through the Adirondack Park in northern New York state. It is the largest park in the continental United States. It is bigger than Yellowstone, Glacier, Everglades, and Grand Canyon national parks combined. How many acres is the park? What year was it established? What is its tallest mountain?
9. Shannon climbs two mountains: Blue Mountain and Whiteface Mountain. How are these experiences similar? How are they different?
10. List the other young people Shannon meets. Compare and contrast their life journeys.
11. List the other women Shannon meets. How does she feel about each? What might they represent to Shannon?

12. Rebecca's close friend Diana teaches Shannon a few yoga poses. How does Shannon respond? Have you ever tried yoga or meditation? Describe your experiences.
13. Shannon meets Harold and his friends who travel and live in their motor homes and campers. The recent feature film "Nomadland" examines this slice of American life. What might be the pros and cons of living a transient lifestyle? Is this something you would like to experience? Why or why not?
14. In the middle of her adventure, Shannon states, "I felt as if I were shedding my skin, shaking things loose that I didn't need anymore." What are these things? Are they physical or emotional? Have you ever felt this way?
15. At the end of the book, Shannon has a new vehicle and a new set of clues to follow. Imagine what her next adventure might be. What would you do if you were in her situation and why?