

Teachers'/Readers' guide for:

# BRIGHT BEFORE SUNRISE

By Tiffany Schmidt

## Summary:

Jonah and Brighton are about to have the most awkwardly awful night of their lives. For Jonah, every aspect of his new life in Cross Pointe reminds him of what his parents' divorce forced him to give up. His mom and her new husband may only have moved him one town over, but Jonah feels a world way from who he used to be.

Brighton is popular, pretty, and—well—so perfectly *nice*. But no one knows that her family is still devastated by her father's death five years ago, or that she'll do anything not to have to think about what she wants for herself.

All Jonah wants is for Brighton to leave him alone. All she wants is to figure out why he's so determined to dislike her. Told from alternating perspectives over the course of one night, this novel proves that so much can change before sunrise.

## Discussion topics / Writing Prompts:

**Aligned with CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL: Key Ideas & Details for grades 7-12**

The tagline of *Bright Before Sunrise* is: "*One night can change how you see the world. One night can change how you see yourself.*" Write about one night in your own life where this proved to be true.

Choose any scene in *Bright Before Sunrise* and rewrite it from the opposite narrator's perspective.

Compare and contrast Brighton and Jonah's journeys. Who changed most over the course of the book?

Summarize what Brighton and Jonah learned in one sentence each.

Neither Brighton nor Jonah feels 'seen' by their families, what advice would you give them?

What happens next? Write an epilogue.

Assign a theme song to Brighton and Jonah. Explain your choices.

Why do you think Tiffany Schmidt choose to write *Bright Before Sunrise* from both Brighton and Jonah’s perspectives? How would the story have changed if it had a single narrator?

On pages 102-103, Jonah objects to Brighton categorizing herself as “nice” and says that he is “cynical and jaded.” What adjectives would you choose to describe Jonah and Brighton? Yourself? Why?

Is identity something individuals *create* or something that is *imposed* on them? Defend your position with examples from the text and your life.

We’ve all heard the expressions “Rome wasn’t built in a day” and “Carpe Diem.” Which of these do you believe? Support your position with examples from the book and personal anecdotes.

**Additional Reading:**

*Nick & Norah’s Infinite Playlist* by David Levithan and Rachel Cohn

*Dairy Queen* by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

*The Infinite Moment of Us* by Lauren Myracle

*13 Reasons Why* by Jay Asher

*Graffiti Moon* by Cath Crowley