

# KAR-BEN PUBLISHING

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## Educator Guide



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Ages 8-12

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## Guiding Questions

1. What are some of the main themes in *Things That Shimmer*?
2. On page 14 Melanie says, "If I were a Shimmer, I'd never have to worry about belonging anywhere again. Maybe I'd never worry about anything." What might be problematic about her reasoning?
3. On page 24 Dorit says, "...living all over makes you see things differently than only staying in one town," but on page 55, after her family finds a house to buy near Melanie's she says, "I think we're here for good!" and is excited. How can you explain her two very different responses?
4. Compare and contrast Melanie and Dorit. What values do they share? What brings them together? Where do they have their greatest differences?
5. Choose one scene where there were strong emotional reactions and describe it from Melanie's point of view, and then from another character's point of view who was also there. Some examples are Marla's Bat Mitzvah; Melanie and Vicky's shoplifting experience; the movie theater scene when Melanie's mother has a panic attack; and the library scene when Melanie is taken into the conference room by the Shimmers and leaves Dorit alone. There are many others, but these are a few ideas.
6. Describe the different reactions Melanie and Dorit have to the surprise attack on Israel that leads to the Yom Kippur War.
7. What's the significance of Melanie's and Vicky's friendship? What do you think will happen to them in high school?
- 8.. How might Watergate tie in with what Melanie experiences with the Shimmers?
9. Tell the significance of each of these in the story:
  - The Watergate Break-in
  - The Yom Kippur War
  - The Energy Crisis
  - The Battle of the Sexes
  - Newspapers/The Evening News (on TV)