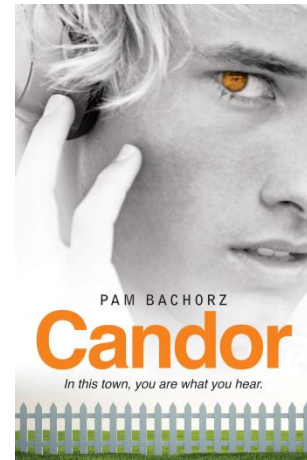


# EGMONT

## USA



## Candor

by Pam Bachorz

**Ages:** 12 Up

### Summary:

The picture-perfect new town of Candor, Florida, is attracting more and more new families, drawn by its postcard-like small-town feel, with white picket fences, spanking-new but old-fashioned-looking homes, and neighborliness.

But the parents are drawn by something else as well. They know that in Candor their obstreperous teenagers will somehow become rewired—they'll learn to respect their elders, do their chores, and enjoy their homework. They'll give up the tattoos, heavy metal, and partying that have been driving their parents crazy. They'll become every parent's dream.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Everything about the town of Candor, Florida, is perfect. Or is it? Look up the definition of *perfection*. In what ways does this definition apply to the town of Candor? In what ways does it not? Do you think that it is ever possible to achieve perfection? Explain.
2. Imagine you are the parent of a disobedient child, one who ran with the wrong crowd, disobeyed your rules, experimented with drugs, etc. Would you consider bringing them to a place like Candor? Why or why not?
3. "I realized I couldn't stop what was happening. All I could do was protect myself. Maybe a few others." (pg. 28) Oscar has racked up a sizable offshore bank account by helping rich kids escape Candor. Why do you think he has not attempted to run away himself before Nia arrives?
4. Oscar creates messages for Nia to counteract the Messages his father broadcasts. Do you think the good intentions behind Oscar's messages make his actions any different from his father's? Why or why not?
5. When Nia discovers that Oscar has been feeding her Messages through his CDs, she cuts off contact with him. If you were in Nia's position, how would you react? What factors would influence your feelings?
6. Think about the town you grew up in and compare it to Candor. In what ways is it different from Candor? In what ways is it similar?
7. "Your whole life would have been different if he had just done a cannon ball." (pg.83) Think about this statement. Do you think that one moment can completely alter a person's life? Do you think if Oscar's brother was still alive, things would have turned out differently? Give

# Candor

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reasons to support your answer.

8. When Oscar and Nia's plan to escape is discovered by Campbell, Oscar makes the decision to sacrifice himself so that Nia can be free. Why do you think he does this? If you were in his position, what would you have done?
9. Ultimately, do you think a place like Candor would be harmful or beneficial to society as a whole? Explain your answer.
10. Think ahead to six months in the future. Where do you see Nia and Oscar? What paths have they taken in life? Do you think there is ever a way for those paths to cross again? Explain your answer.

## *Candor*

by Pam Bachorz

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**About the author:** Pam Bachorz came up with the idea of writing *Candor* while living in Celebration, Florida, the perfect new town built by the Walt Disney Company. Something about its perfection made her uneasy and prompted her to think, *What if...*? which led to her subversive teen take on the traditional sci-fi trope. Visit the community of Candor, Florida, online at [www.candorfl.com](http://www.candorfl.com).

For more information visit:

[www.egmontusa.com](http://www.egmontusa.com)

[www.pambachorz.com](http://www.pambachorz.com)