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AMERICAN ROYALS by Katharine McGee Discussion Questions

1. Does America have its own version of a royal family? What defines “royalty” in our culture? What is it about royalty that fascinates us?
2. Why is there such an obsession with royal families? What captivates people’s attention so much?
3. In American Royals, the United States is a monarchy—the first ruler being George Washington. Do you think the royal obsession and paparazzi culture would be in place if this was the case in real life? Or do you think that one of the reasons royals are so fascinating is because the institution of a monarchy is uncommon today?
4. Beatrice is in line for the throne due to a law that says the eldest child is the heir to the throne, instead of it being the first-born son. Throughout the book, Beatrice struggles with the pressure and sense of duty that comes with being the heir. Do you think it’s fair that this law doesn’t take into account the willingness or preparedness of the eldest child?
5. Beatrice is not allowed to marry a commoner. Do you think this is reasonable? Why or why not? What does it tell you about the supposedly progressive nature of this monarchy?
6. Samantha, Beatrice’s sister, is referred to as the “spare,” a backup heir in case something happens to Beatrice. What do you think about this term? If you were in Sam’s shoes would you wish you were the heir? Or is being a part of the royal family enough responsibility as it is?