



NOT A DROP TO DRINK

by Mindy McGinnis

ABOUT THE BOOK

If she has water, she has life.

Lynn knows every threat to her pond: drought, a snowless winter, coyotes, and, most important, people looking for a drink. Lynn has no use for the world beyond the nearby fields and forest. Having a pond requires the fortitude to protect it, something Mother taught her well during their quiet hours on the rooftop, rifles in hand. But wisps of smoke on the horizon mean one thing: strangers. The mysterious footprints by the pond, nighttime threats, and gunshots make it all too clear Lynn has exactly what they want, and they won't stop until they get it. . . .

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways is Lynn forced to mature and take on adult roles? Provide examples of this.
2. Lynn believes, "regret was for people with nothing to defend, people who had no water" (p. 5). How can this relate to our world today? What universal ideas does this line examine?
3. Lynn recalls the event from her youth with Stebbs: "It was the first and only time Lynn could remember speaking to anyone other than Mother" (p. 40). Why do you think Lynn and Mother never spoke to Stebbs before?
4. Mother is a firm believer in self-reliance and only protecting themselves and their belongings. What could be some positives to living like this? What could be some downfalls? Do you agree with this type of living? Why or why not?
5. What habits and characteristics has Lynn picked up from her mom? Which of these are beneficial to her? Which of them might she be better off without? Give examples.
6. What do you think is the theme of *Not a Drop to Drink*? Trace the theme throughout the book and provide examples.
7. By the end of the novel, how is Lynn's outlook on the world different from Mother's? How is it similar? Why does Lynn see things and people differently than Mother did?
8. Lynn learns something from Stebbs, Eli, Lucy, and Neva. What does she learn from each of them? How does knowing them change her as a person?
9. How far in the future do you think the novel is supposed to take place? Why?
10. Is water the worst resource to lose? If not, what would be worse? How would your life be worse without that resource? Compare your life without that resource to Lynn's life without water.
11. Lynn's father says, "Nothing's nobody's out here, little girl. Those that can, take. And there ain't no justice or higher power to appeal to" (p. 303). Does Lynn follow that philosophy? Why or why not?
12. In chapter 21, Lynn talks about "the only bullet she had ever fired with love in her heart" (p. 295). What does she mean by this? What motivated the other bullets she fired?
13. What is the world like for Lynn and Lucy by the end of the novel? Are you hopeful for their future? Why or why not?

Book Club Pick!

