



The Canyon's Edge

Dusti Bowling

Junior Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



August 2022 Book of the Month

Pre-reading questions

1. The book *The Canyon's Edge* is a story of survival and determination. If you were to go out into the wilderness, what survival items would you pack? How would your items differ depending on what climate you are exploring? For example, desert vs forest vs arctic climates.
2. Do some quick research about different types of canyons [here](#). What are the different types? Do they only exist in dry locations? Give some examples.
3. There are some extremely dangerous creatures that live in the desert. Do some research about the types of animals the main character might encounter during her time in the desert.

Post-reading questions

1. Nora and her dad experience the feeling that something is always missing after her mom passes. Do you think this feeling will ever go away? Will it lessen over time?
2. Nora uses writing to help with her anxiety and trauma. Have you ever used writing to help you work through something, remember something, or vent about something? Was it helpful? How might journaling be helpful to some people?
3. Nora tells her dad that at the beginning of the story her writing is just for her. Why might she want to keep it to herself and not share it with others?
4. Nora says "I'm not sure all this safety is worth all this aloneness." What do you think about this quote? Can you blame Nora and her father for reacting the way they did to what happened to Nora's mother? Do you think there is a middle ground to be found here?
5. We learn that Nora is secretly afraid of heights and never told her parents even though they always went rock climbing and rappelling. Why do you think she kept this a secret?
6. Nora and her family enjoyed rock climbing and rappelling. Do some quick research, what is a belay?
7. When rock climbing, it's important to follow safety rules and have someone anchoring and ready to keep you from falling. Nora mentions this many times throughout the book. How does this idea of trust relate to Nora and her family's story in *The Canyon's Edge*?
8. What causes Nora to freeze? How does she learn to overcome her fears and face them?

Post-reading activities

1. The main character of *The Canyon's Edge* enjoys writing haikus. A haiku is a type of traditional poem native to Japan. Try writing a haiku from the perspective of the main character for the It List Poetry competition and ask your adviser to submit your completed work. The structure of a traditional haiku is always the same, including the following features:
 1. There are only three lines, totaling 17 syllables.
 2. The first line is 5 syllables.
 3. The second line is 7 syllables.
 4. The third line is 5 syllables like the first.

5. Punctuation and capitalization are up to the poet, and need not follow the rigid rules used in structuring sentences.
 6. A haiku does not have to rhyme, in fact usually it does not rhyme at all.
 7. It can include the repetition of words or sounds
2. Come up with a Like, Try, Why for this book. Tell the group another book they should try if they like this book, and why they are similar or would appeal to a reader who enjoyed this book.

More About This Book

Author's Website: dustibowling.com