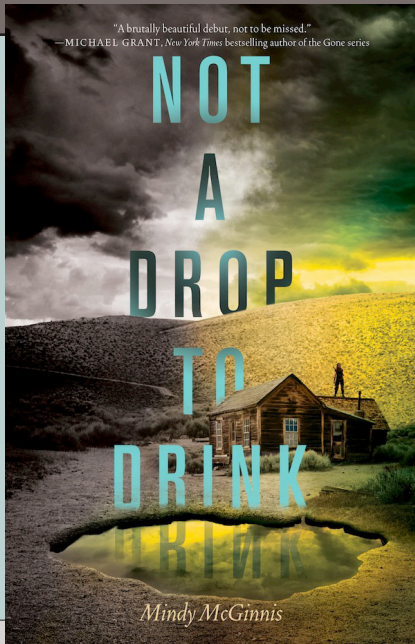


DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHOLE BOOK ESSAY/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



REGRET WAS FOR PEOPLE WITH NOTHING TO DEFEND, PEOPLE WHO HAD NO WATER.

Lynn knows every threat to her pond: drought, a snowless winter, coyotes, and, most importantly, people looking for a drink. She makes sure anyone who comes near the pond leaves thirsty, or doesn't leave at all.

Confident in her own abilities, Lynn has no use for the world beyond the nearby fields and forest. Having a life means dedicating it to survival, and the constant work of gathering wood and water. 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....

With evocative, spare language and incredible drama, danger, and romance, debut author Mindy McGinnis depicts one girl's journey in a barren world not so different than our own.

► Is water the worst resource to lose? If so, defend your answer with evidence from the text and with your own ideas and opinions. 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.

► What habits and characteristics has Lynn picked up from her mom? Which of those are beneficial to her? Which of them might she be better off without? Give examples and defend your answers.

► Sometimes things happen that make us better even if they hurt. Give examples of these kinds of things in the text. Give more than one example and explain how those events, though painful, were beneficial.

► How does living in a world with a water shortage affect the way Lynn lives? How does it affect the way she understands people?

► What do you think is the theme of this story? Trace the

theme throughout the book. How is the author teaching that lesson? Use the text to show the theme. Where else (in books, movies, other stories) have you seen this lesson? How does this book present that lesson in a similar way? How is it different?

► By the end of the novel, how is Lynn's outlook on the world different from Mother's? How is it similar? Why does she see things and people differently than her mom did?

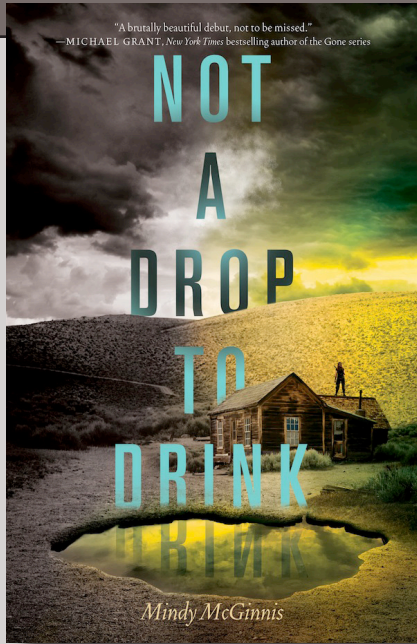
► Lynn learns something from Stebbs, Eli, Lucy, and Neva. What does she learn from each of them? How does knowing them change her as a person?

► Lynn's mother kept all of their things in the attic as opposed to getting rid of them or destroying them. What does this tell us about what she was thinking when things got bad for her and Lynn? Is this consistent with who you thought this character was? Explain.

► Is the ending a "happily ever after" ending? Why or

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHOLE BOOK ESSAY/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



why not? Would you have told it some other way? Explain.

› How fast do you think it took society to come to what it is? Based on what you see around you, how long would it take for people to live the way that Lynn and her mother do?

› Is this scenario of this world realistic? Is water shortage a valid concern?

› Do you agree with how Lynn's mother has raised her to see "others"? If so, defend with evidence from the text and your own opinions. If not, how do you think she should

have handled things? Why do you think that would have been better?

› Find and describe a moment where you felt differently about something than a character did. Did Lynn do something that she felt was not a big deal that you felt was a big deal? Did Eli or Stebbs say something that you found funny that Lynn just didn't get? What does that reveal about the character? What does that reveal about you, the reader?

› How far in the future do you think the novel is supposed to take place? Defend your response with specific examples from the text.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR

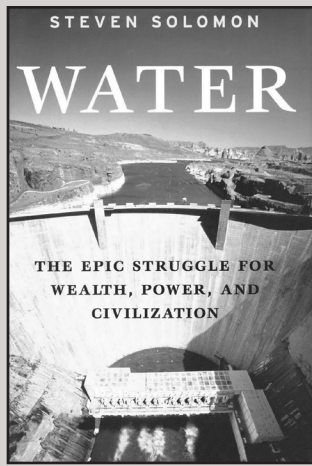
COMPANION READINGS

Guide written by Melanie White. Designed by Renee Combs Designs.

Mindy McGinnis is an assistant YA librarian who lives in Ohio and cans her own food. She graduated from Otterbein University magna cum laude with a BA in English Literature and Religion. Mindy has a pond in her back yard but has never shot anyone, as her morals tend to cloud her vision.



COMPANION READINGS



WATER: THE EPIC STRUGGLE FOR WEALTH, POWER, AND CIVILIZATION BY STEVEN SOLOMON
Harper Perennial | ISBN-13: 978-0060548315

In *Water*, esteemed journalist Steven Solomon describes a terrifying—and all too real—world in which access to fresh water has replaced oil as the primary cause of global conflicts that increasingly emanate from drought-ridden, overpopulated areas of the world. Meticulously researched and undeniably prescient, *Water* is a stunningly clear-eyed action statement on what Robert F Kennedy, Jr. calls “the biggest environmental and political challenge of our time.”

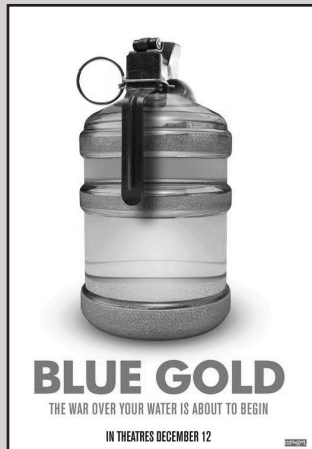
WATER ETHICS: FOUNDATIONAL READINGS FOR STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS BY DR. PETER G. BROWN, ED.
Island Press | ISBN-13: 978-1597265652

Having manipulated water for irrigation, energy, and burgeoning urban centers, humans are facing the reality that although fresh water is renewable, it is as finite as any other resource. Countries, states, and cities are now scrambling to develop an intelligent, well-informed approach to mitigate the growing global water crisis. *Water Ethics* is based on the belief that responding to contemporary water problems requires attending to questions of value and culture. How should we capture, store, and distribute water? At what cost? For whom? How do we reconcile water's dual roles as a practical resource and spiritual symbol?

According to the editors of this collection of foundational essays, questions surrounding water are inherently ethical. Peter Brown and Jeremy Schmidt contend that all approaches to managing water, no matter how grounded in empirical data, involve value judgments and cultural assumptions. Each of the six sections of the book discusses a different approach to thinking about the relationship between water and humanity, from utilitarianism to eco-feminism to religious beliefs, including Islam, Hinduism, and Christianity.

NOT A DROP TO DRINK: AMERICA'S WATER CRISIS BY KEN MIDKIFF, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.
New World Library | ISBN-13: 9781930722682

In some parts of the United States, water is disappearing as consumption exceeds supply. In other parts, battles are raging that will determine both the cost and the quality of a simple glass of water. *Not a Drop to Drink* comprehensively examines the imminent crisis of America's water supply and explains what readers everywhere can do about it. In this straightforward, story-driven book, Ken Midkiff talks to crusty ranchers in Topeka, suited lawyers in Atlanta, and smooth-talking politicians in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Using regional and national case studies, he analyzes and presents the roots of the problem, and then says what we must do to solve it. Written by one of the foremost experts on America's water supply, *Not a Drop to Drink* is a must-read book for concerned citizens nationwide.



DOCUMENTARIES:

▫ Water Wars (2009)

This timely documentary uncovers critical water issues facing humanity. It takes the viewer from the floods and droughts in Bangladesh, to dam building in India, water management in the Netherlands and the latest wake-up call in America: the Katrina disaster and the drought in the Southwest. Future wars will be fought over access to fresh water, unless we come together to face this global crisis. Without water there is no life.
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1509836/>

▫ Blue Gold: World Water Wars (2008)

Wars of the future will be fought over water as they are over oil today, as the source of human survival enters the global marketplace and political arena. Corporate giants, private investors, and corrupt governments vie for control of our dwindling supply, prompting protests, lawsuits, and revolutions from citizens fighting for the right to survive. Past civilizations have collapsed from poor water management. Can the human race survive?
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1137439/>

▫ Last Call at the Oasis (2012)

This documentary presents a powerful argument for why the global water crisis will be the central issue facing our world this century. Illuminating

the vital role water plays in our lives, exposing the defects in the current system and depicting communities already struggling with its ill-effects, the film features activist Erin Brockovich and such distinguished experts as Peter Gleick, Alex Prud'homme, Jay Famiglietti and Robert Glennon.
<http://www.lastcallattheoasis.com>

ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES:

▫ The Coming War for Water:

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/dark-side-of-natural-resources/water-in-conflict/48182.html>

▫ Will The Next War be Fought over Water: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=122195532>

▫ Water Wars Worldwide:

Database of News Articles regarding water exploitation country by country, and state by state in US.
<http://wearemichigan.com/WorldWaterWars/index.htm>

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GLOBAL ISSUES SERIES: WATER RESOURCES

ISBN-13: 9780736297509

Addresses Common Core Standards on various reading levels