

WILDFIRE BREENA BARD

Book Club Guide

About the Book

Julianna loved her life in rural Oregon. She loved taking care of her farm animals and being part of her local 4H club. But then the unthinkable happened...a wildfire destroyed her family's home. In the aftermath, her family relocates to Portland, Oregon, where Julianna hopes to put everything behind her, but that becomes near impossible when Carson, an old friend from her hometown who may have had a hand in starting the wildfire, is suddenly back in her life. When two new friends invite her to join their school's conservation club, she learns that maybe she can turn her anger into something powerful. Emotional and inspiring, *Wildfire* shows readers that healing from tragedy can take many forms and demonstrates what it means to take action in the face of climate change—and how that action can be different for each of us.



Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of *Wildfire*, Julianna and her family become climate refugees and are relocated to Portland. How does Julianna handle the transition from country life to city life? Do she and her family members process the change in different ways?
2. Why does Julianna not want anyone to know what happened to her and her family? Do you think she should tell her new friends about the wildfires and how they affected her family and home?
3. Carson made an enormous mistake, one with disastrous consequences. How does he take responsibility for what he did? Do you think Julianna can, or should, forgive him?
4. More wildfires and other climate disasters are a terrifying and overwhelming reality of climate change. What are some things you can do to alleviate climate anxiety?
5. At first, Julianna is reluctant to blame climate change for the wildfires. Why do you think that is? How does her opinion change throughout the book?
6. Julianna's father tells her that "channeling our anger into action" (p. 72) is a good way for their whole family to heal from the fires. Why is this healthy advice? If you were Julianna, how would you take action?
7. In Conservation Club, Ezra suggests that the team writes letters to their congresspeople about climate change. How can writing letters to your representatives affect change? What would you write to your congressperson about?
8. At the climate protest, many people hold up signs with poignant phrases. If you went to a protest, what would your protest sign say?
9. Julianna feels terrible after she experiences traumatic memories of the wildfires at the climate protest and must go home. How does she learn to balance her own needs with the needs of the planet?
10. Throughout *Wildfire*, Juliana learns that there are many ways to get involved with conservation efforts. What are some ways that you could get involved?