

FURHTER READING

This is My America (Jul 2020)

by Kim Johnson

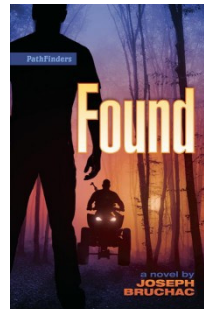
Sending weekly letters to an organization she hopes will save her innocent father from death row, 17-year-old Tracy uncovers racist community secrets when her track star brother is wrongly accused of murder.



Found (Jan 2020)

by Joseph Bruchac

Nick, a teenage Native American survival expert, needs to avoid being found by the outlaws in relentless pursuit of him. Can he stay safe until the odds are in his favor?



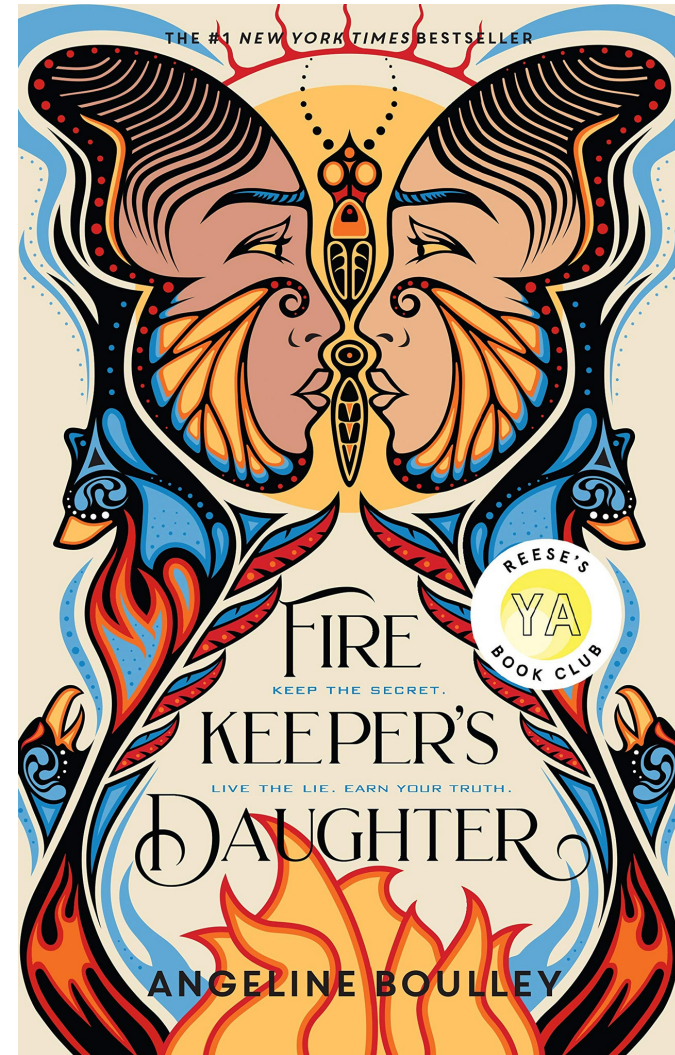
Two Can Keep a Secret (Jan 2019)

by Karen M. McManus

While true-crime aficionado Ellery and her twin brother are staying with their grandmother in a Vermont community known for murder, a new friend goes missing and Ellery may be next.



BOOK DISCUSSION



ABOUT THE BOOK

DAUNIS, WHO IS PART OJIBWE, DEFERS ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TO CARE FOR HER MOTHER AND RELUCTANTLY BECOMES INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION OF A SERIES OF DRUG-RELATED DEATHS.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. DAUNIS STARTS EVERY DAY WITH A PRAYER AND A MORNING RUN. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RITUAL TO DAUNIS? WHAT OTHER RITUALS DOES SHE ENGAGE IN?

2. DAUNIS TALKS ABOUT KEEPING HER VARIOUS “WORLDS” SEPARATE, SAYING, “MY LIFE GOES MORE SMOOTHLY WHEN HOCKEY WORLD AND REAL WORLD DON’T OVERLAP. SAME AS WITH MY FONTAINE AND FIREKEEPER WORLDS.” WHAT ARE WAYS IN WHICH WE SEE DAUNIS ACTING TO KEEP HER WORLDS SEPARATE? DO YOU THINK SHE FEELS A STRONGER CONNECTION TO ONE WORLD OR THE OTHER? DO YOU AGREE IT’S EASIER TO KEEP WORLDS SEPARATE?

3. DAUNIS OFTEN SEEKS WISDOM AND GUIDANCE FROM THE ELDERS. HOW DOES THE ROLE OF THE ELDERS COMPARE TO THE ROLE OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

4. BOTH DAUNIS AND JAMIE STRUGGLE WITH THEIR IDENTITIES—WHILE DAUNIS FEELS TORN BETWEEN MANY, JAMIE DOESN’T HAVE ANY SENSE OF WHERE HE COMES FROM. ARE THERE SIMILARITIES IN THE WAY THEY CONSIDER THEIR IDENTITIES? DIFFERENCES?

5. AUNT TEDDIE DESCRIBES A BLANKET PARTY AS “NISH KWE JUSTICE.” WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS FORM OF JUSTICE AND HOW BLANKET PARTIES WERE CREATED? HOW DO YOU THINK THIS MIGHT INFLUENCE DAUNIS’S UNDERSTANDING OF JUSTICE?

6. TEDDIE TELLS DAUNIS, “NOT EVERY ELDER IS A CULTURAL TEACHER AND NOT ALL CULTURAL TEACHERS ARE ELDERS. IT’S OKAY TO LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY AND ONLY HOLD ONTO THE PARTS THAT RESONATE WITH YOU. IT’S OKAY TO LEAVE THE REST BEHIND. TRUST YOURSELF TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.” WHAT DOES TEDDIE MEAN? WHAT DOES DAUNIS CHOOSE TO HOLD ONTO AND LEAVE BEHIND FROM HER CULTURE?

7. DESCRIBE DAUNIS’S FEELINGS AFTER SHE LEARNS THAT HER TESTIMONY CAN’T BE USED IN THE COURT. WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THE AUTHOR MADE THIS CHOICE?

8. WHY DID THE AUTHOR CHOOSE TO END THE STORY ON A POWWOW SCENE? HOW DOES THIS SPEAK TO THE THEMES OF THE BOOK?

9. DAUNIS REFERENCES THE SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS THROUGHOUT THE NOVEL—LOVE, HUMILITY, RESPECT, HONESTY, BRAVERY, WISDOM, AND TRUTH. ARE THERE CHARACTERS OR MOMENTS THAT HELP DAUNIS LEARN AND EMBODY THESE TEACHINGS?

QUESTIONS COURTESY OF
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