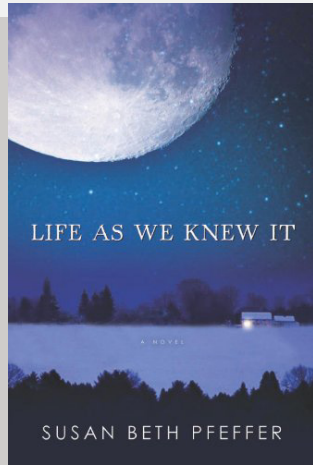


Book Club for Kids



Life as We Knew It
by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Recommended Ages:
12 and up



helenplum.org

Summary: Miranda's disbelief turns to fear when an asteroid knocks the moon closer to the Earth. Her focus shifts from her life as a high school student to her family's survival as she comes to grips with the dramatic changes that follow. What will the future offer when worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts, earthquakes rock the continents, and volcanic ash blocks out the sun? As summer turns to arctic winter, Miranda records the events of each desperate day while she and her family struggle to hold on to their most priceless resource—hope.

Discussion Questions: Spoiler alert! Some of the questions contain key elements of the plot. Do not read if you don't want to know what happens!

1. When the moon was knocked out of its orbit, moving closer to Earth, a sequence of cataclysmic events followed. How did people initially react to these disasters?
2. If you were Miranda, would you have gone to school the next day? The next week? The next month? Why or why not?
3. How did climate change impact people's lives and their chances for survival?
4. Miranda's mom immediately acted because she anticipated difficult times. What did she do? Consider where you live. What would you do?
5. Think about your own life: what you eat, what you do for entertainment, how you keep in touch with your family and friends. What would be hardest for you to do without? Why?
6. Do you think it is important for Miranda to continue swimming after the disaster? What would you try to continue to do if you were facing the same difficulties?
7. This natural disaster is very extreme. Does it seem like it could really happen? Does reading about it make you think about your own life differently?