



Wild Bird

by Wendelin Van Draanen



Discussion Questions

1. Can you imagine being taken out of your home and your life the way Wren was?
2. What did you imagine she'd done to make her parent take this drastic step? Did those ideas match up with how the story played out?
3. Did you initially sympathize with Wren or her parents? And how did your feelings shift over the course of the novel?
4. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story in the order she did? Do you think your feelings about the characters would have been different if the story had gone in strict chronological order?
5. How confident are you that Wren will be able to take her hard-earned wisdom back into her regular day-to-day life?
6. Why do you think being able to start a fire is a requirement before campers can join the main group? What purpose does it serve?
7. Why do you think Wren resists writing to her family, or even for herself, for so long?
8. What is it about going on her solo quest that changes things for Wren? What discoveries does she make along the way?
9. How do Wren's impressions of Dax vary from their first meeting to their second? Do you think he'll successfully complete the program on his second try?
10. Consider the counselors. What drives them to do this job? What skills do they need? Is it possible they are avoiding things in their own lives while at the same time helping the campers?
11. Think about how the author engages your senses in the book—how she makes you feel the heat and discomfort of desert camping. What scenes stand out in your mind?
12. Wren makes an important list—not of the things she wants to do, but of the kind of person she wants to be. What would be on your list?
13. What would be the hardest part for you about being in the desert for eight weeks? No phone? No electricity? No showering?
14. Do you think Wren's sister was trying to help her or hurt her by telling her about Meadow's lies?
15. Imagine being in Wren's parent's shoes. What would you have done?
16. Wren's troubles began when her family moved to a new town. And her transgressions started off small. And yet starting down that path set her up for worse things to come. What kind of intervention or interactions earlier on might have helped her change direction?

