

PARADISE ON FIRE

BOOK CLUB GUIDE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Bibi tells Addy that “to know yourself, you need to journey” (p. 6). What do you think Bibi means by this? What does Addy come to know about herself on this journey?
2. What differences do the kids highlight between their “wilderness adventures” and city life? How do they feel about the outdoors and being away from home?
3. Why are maps so important to Addy? What information do they reveal to her? How does she use maps both as physical and mental tools?
4. Over the course of the book Addy and the other kids learn many wilderness survival lessons. Which of these lessons stand out to you? How do the kids interact with nature at the beginning of the book as opposed to the end?
5. Addy develops a strong relationship with Leo, even comparing it favorably to her relationship with Bibi. How are Addy and Leo similar? Why does Addy value their time together? What does Addy learn from the elders in her life?
6. How do different characters process grief? How do humans and nature heal after trauma?
7. Addy’s full name is Adaugo, which in Igbo means “daughter of an eagle” or “of the air, farseeing, watchful.” What importance do names have?
8. During the fire, how do Addy and her friends help each other survive? What different strengths do they bring to their crew?
9. *Paradise on Fire* closes with the following: “See the whole. Map the whole. Hard doesn’t mean impossible. All of us need to help the world survive” (p. 240). How do those phrases reflect Addy’s experiences at Wilderness Adventures? What do they mean to you?
10. In her author’s note, Jewell Parker Rhodes emphasizes that “human action can slow climate change and help prevent forest fires” (p. 243). What did you learn from *Paradise on Fire* about how humans impact the world around them? How can you personally help fight climate change?

