

Looking to the Skies in Search of a Better Future

# BIRD

**MYA-ROSE CRAIG**

# GIRL



# BOOK CLUB KIT

# READING GUIDE

## Chapter suggestions for birders

Chapter 2 - The Little Big Year

Chapter 8 - Don't Mention the Chimps

## Chapter suggestions for environmentalists

Chapter 5 - The South American Sojourn

Chapter 7 - Roots

## Chapter suggestions for mental health advocates

Chapter 4 - The Uninvited Guest

Chapter 6 - The Dinosaur Bird

## Chapter suggestions for diversity activists

Chapter 10 - California Dreamin'

Chapter 12 - The Eighth Continent



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Do you enjoy hiking, birdwatching, or other nature activities? How does being in nature make you feel? Does Mya-Rose's passion for nature and wildlife resonate with you?
- 2 For Mya-Rose's family, birding trips are a source of family bonding and education. Which was your favorite birding trip or destination in the book, and what lesson did you learn from it?
- 3 Mya-Rose became a world traveler at a young age. Do you think her exposure to other cultures and firsthand experience of wildlife devastation at such an impressionable age sparked her activism? What other factors do you think contributed to her motivation and accomplishments?
- 4 Mya-Rose's mother finds solace while birding and being immersed in nature, which in turn helps maintain her personal well-being and health. In what ways do you think being in nature improves personal well-being — and what are its limitations?
- 5 During their trip to East Africa, Mya-Rose questions, "Was there an element of flight away from our real lives on our trips?" Do you believe these escapes were ultimately beneficial to the Craigs, or were they only a short-term balm? What short-term and long-term effects have you experienced while traveling or after traveling?
- 6 At a young age, Mya-Rose recognized the barriers and systemic racism in the environmentalism, birding, and conservation spaces. What diversity-related improvements have you seen recently in your community and what changes would you like to see in the years ahead? Is there any action that you can take?
- 7 In the chapter featuring South America, Mya-Rose writes about the balancing act between ecotourism and environmental conservation. After reading, have you considered balancing your carbon footprint while traveling?



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- 8 During the first weekend of Camp Avalon, Mya-Rose realized the kids weren't connecting with nature until a volunteer spoke about the Peregrine Falcon like it was a Formula 1 race car. Do you have other ideas for making nature and conservation more relevant and exciting to kids?
- 9 In the epilogue, Mya-Rose calls out some larger climate-change and conservation NGOs for their egregious human rights abuses in the name of conservation work. How did reading about these issues change the way you think about the climate-change movement? If you support any environmental organizations, have you vetted them for unethical practices?
- 10 Did your opinions on environmentalism and climate activism change after reading *Birdgirl*? Has Mya-Rose's activism inspired you in any way? What will you do next?

If you decide to adopt *Birdgirl* for your book club, we would love to hear about it! Please let us know by emailing us at [reader@celadonbooks.com](mailto:reader@celadonbooks.com) or post on social media using the hashtags #CeladonBookClub and #BirdgirlBook.

