



## *Pushing the Limits of Community* Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

Through this theme, you'll explore the importance of community in the face of large-scale challenges like natural disasters, pandemics, and climate change. As individuals, how vulnerable are we against these dangers? Chances are, we stand a better chance of surviving as a unified force. So people are coming together, maximizing their capabilities as a community to – literally – weather the storm.

### *Memory of Water*

**Emmi Itäranta, Fiction.** “Can a dystopian tale be beautiful? In this case, the concept is dark and emotionally scarring. But the writing is lyrical and delicate. And much of the suspense comes from positive elements in life such as love, the choices we make, and the imprint we leave on our communities and the world.

Global warming has changed the world's geography and its politics. Wars are waged over water, and China rules Europe. In this far north place, seventeen-year-old Noria Kaitio is learning to become a tea master like her father — a position that holds great responsibility and great secrets. Tea masters alone know the location of hidden water sources. But secrets do not stay hidden forever, and after her father's death the army starts watching their town. And Noria. As water becomes even more scarce, Noria must choose between safety and striking out, between knowledge and kinship. *amazon.com*

- What are some of the water metaphors used in this book?
- Who owns water? Is access to water a human right?
- In what ways did Noria and others in her community use “old school” technologies or approaches to help solve their problems? What about newer, digital technologies? Which are the most helpful in a situation like this?
- How does a community help or hinder when you are facing a large-scale challenge? In what ways does community help you mitigate or adapt to the challenge?

