



Pushing the Limits of Nature Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

In our environments or within ourselves, the idea of “natural” is complicated. In your discussions consider how we define nature, and if that definition is fixed or in flux.

Just Life

Neil Abramson, Fiction. Veterinarian Samantha Lewis and her team are dedicated to providing a sanctuary for unwanted, abused, and abandoned dogs in New York City. But every day it gets harder to operate her no-kill shelter. Sam is already at her breaking point when she learns of an unidentified, dangerous virus spreading through their neighborhood. The medical community can only determine that animals are the carriers. Amid growing panic and a demand for immediate answers, suspicion abruptly falls on dogs as the source. Soon the governor is calling in the National Guard to enforce a quarantine -- no dog may leave the area.

Samantha knows from her own painful history that, despite the lack of real evidence against the dogs, a quarantine may only be the beginning. As questions about the source of the virus mount and clash with the pressure for a politically expedient resolution, Sam is forced to make life-altering choices. - *goodreads.com*

- Did this book change how you see animals? How so?
- Do you think euthanizing animals is ever justifiable?
- There are lots of examples of viruses crossing over from animals to humans such as rabies and salmonella. What do you think that says about how species are connected in some way? Why do you think that?
- Do you think there’s a “natural” bond between humans and dogs?
- Is there something in our human nature that makes us want to find someone to blame when things go horribly wrong?

