



Pushing the Limits of Community Featured Video and Book – 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.

Featured Video - Bert and Johnnie Hyde

- What surprised you about this story?
- Johnnie and Bert suggest that their close-knit community is a key part of their resilience. How would you describe your community? How do you think this idea of community relationships leading to resilience applies or doesn't apply to your community?
- Bert talks about the risk assessments he does with homeowners through the Firewise Program. What types of risks do you face in your community? And what types of assessments can we do to try to better understand or prepare for those risks? Are there any increased risks we have due to the changing climate?
- Bert comments that the lakes are freezing later than they used to and melting earlier. Have you noticed changes in the ice and snow patterns in your area? Or heat and rain patterns?

Featured Book – *The Hidden Life of Trees*

Peter Wohlleben, Nonfiction. In *The Hidden Life of Trees*, Peter Wohlleben shares his deep love of woods and forests and explains the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in the woodland and the amazing scientific processes behind the wonders of which we are blissfully unaware. Much like human families, tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, and support them as they grow, sharing nutrients with those who are sick or struggling and creating an ecosystem that mitigates the impact of extremes of heat and cold for the whole group. As a result of such interactions, trees in a family or community are protected and can live to be very old. In contrast, solitary trees, like street kids, have a tough time of it and in most cases die much earlier than those in a group.

Drawing on groundbreaking new discoveries, Wohlleben presents the science behind the secret and previously unknown life of trees. goodreads.com





- What things in this book surprised you? Were there things you found hard to believe?
- As you read the book, did you find yourself reflecting on the parallels with other organisms (such as us as humans, or other animals?) How do we think about something like trees as having a “community” without anthropomorphizing them? Should we?
- What do those similarities and difference suggest to you?