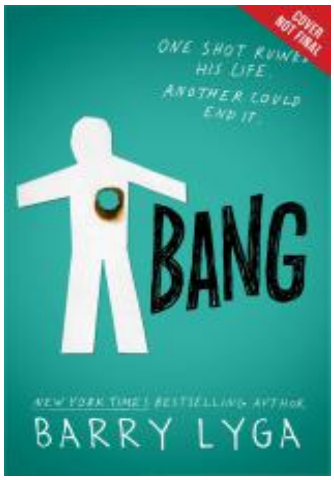
ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

Bang

by Barry Lyga



About the Book

THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS, HATE LIST and FORGIVE ME, LEONARD PEACOCK readers will appreciate this heartbreaking novel about living with your worst mistake from *New York Times* bestselling author Barry Lyga.

A chunk of old memory, adrift in a pool of blood.

Sebastian Cody did something horrible, something no one --- not even Sebastian himself --- can forgive. At the age of four, he accidentally shot and killed his infant sister with his father's gun.

Now, 10 years later, Sebastian has lived with the guilt and horror for his entire life. With his best friend away for the summer, Sebastian has only a new friend --- Aneesa --- to distract him from his darkest thoughts. But even this relationship cannot blunt the pain of his past. Because Sebastian knows exactly how to rectify his childhood crime and sanctify his past. It took a gun to get him into this.

Now he needs a gun to get out.

Unflinching and honest, BANG is the story of one boy and one moment in time that cannot be reclaimed, as true and as relevant as tomorrow's headlines.

Discussion Guide

1. What were your first impressions when you started reading? Why is the first-person narrator so powerful for this story?

2. Why is the book divided into ?History,? ?Present,? and ?Tomorrow?? What effect does this narrative structure have

on the story while reading? What other unique narrative features did you notice?

3. What is the importance of Sebastian?s friendship with Aneesa? How is it different from his friendship with Evan? Why is the timing of his new friendship with Aneesa significant?

4. Sebastian describes his room as ?a museum to the old, to things I love.? How does his room contrast with the rest of his house? How does he treat memories differently than his family? Why does Sebastian say his sister is in the memory hole, and does it affect how he treats his own things?

5. Why does Sebastian wait so long to tell Aneesa about his sister? Do you think it was a good idea?

6. This book is described as ?ripped from the headlines.? Why is this story so important for people to read? What impact did it have on you emotionally?

7. Sebastian admits that he never believed the adage, ?Time heals all wounds,? but has found a different kind of solution. Why is that phrase so commonly used as advice? Do you agree with Sebastian?

8. Why do we see the newspaper article at the end? Does it complete the story for the reader? Why or why not?

Author Bio

Barry Lyga is the author of more than 25 books for teens and adults in a variety of genres, including the *New York Times* bestselling I HUNT KILLERS and THANOS: TITAN CONSUMED, the origin of the greatest villain in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. He won the Kentucky Bluegrass Award for I HUNT KILLERS and was named a Kentucky Colonel by Governor Steven Beshear in 2015. His novel BOY TOY was lauded as ?an astounding portrayal of what it is like to be the young male victim,? and yet has been banned in multiple districts throughout the United States for its unflinching portrayal of child abuse.

Bang
by Barry Lyga

Publication Date: September 4, 2018
Genres: Fiction, Young Adult 12+
Paperback: 304 pages
Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
ISBN-10: 0316315516
ISBN-13: 9780316315517