



## **TEEN BOOK CLUB**

*September 2019 Selection*

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### ***This Is Where It Ends* by Marieke Nijkamp**

Minutes after the principal of Opportunity High School in Alabama finishes her speech welcoming the student body to a new semester, they discover that the auditorium doors will not open. That's when someone starts shooting. Four teens, each with a personal reason to fear the shooter, tell the tale from separate perspectives.

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#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. There are many different kinds of relationships in this novel: family, friendship, romantic. How do these relationships inform what is at stake for each of the main characters?
2. Each character reacts differently to the shooting. Choose two characters and describe how they responded. Do you agree with the decisions they made? How might you have acted differently?
3. *This Is Where It Ends* is interspersed with texts, social media posts, and blog excerpts. How do you think technology has affected the way we experience and respond to tragedy?
4. If you could save one character in this novel, who would you save and why?
5. Family is very important to Sylv, so much so that she's willing to give up her dream to take care of her mother. If you were in her shoes, would you do the same? Why or why not?



6. Autumn and Sylv keep secrets from each other. Do you think this helps or hurts their relationship? Do you agree with their decisions or would you have encouraged them to speak up?
7. Autumn doesn't feel as if she belongs in Opportunity. She tells Sylv, "If I stay here, I don't think I'll matter." What does she mean by this?
8. Early in the novel, Tomás has the opportunity to escape the school. Instead, he chooses to try to help his classmates. Discuss Tomás's decision. What would you have done?
9. Claire and Chris feel helpless as they wait for news about what is happening inside the school. In your opinion, was it more difficult for the characters inside the auditorium of those waiting to hear?

### **Review or Comment about this book:**

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### **Recommendations:**

- If you liked *This Is Where It Ends*, you might like *Hate List* (<https://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780316556781>)
- You might also enjoy *One of Us is Lying* (<https://www.booksamillion.com/p/9781524714680>)