Lawn Boy by Jonathan Evison

Faced by a life of menial prospects in the years after high school, Mike Munoz, a young Mexican-American, attempts over and over to change his life for the better and achieve the American dream, only to be stymied by social-call distinctions and cultural discrimination.


About the Author: Jonathan Evison is the author of four previous novels, including All About Lulu, West of Here, The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving, and This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance! He lives with his wife and family in Washington State.

Questions for Discussion

1. Are we products of our environments? Are we predestined to repeat our family cycle of poverty, unsavory zip codes and bad decisions? Or can we rise above it all to achieve our dreams?

2. What moments in the novel have made you decide you like or dislike it?

3. Some people think the first sentence of a novel is the most important. Would you agree or disagree with that, based on this book?

4. What scene was the most pivotal for the book? How do you think the story would have changed had that scene not taken place?

5. Did any of the characters remind you of yourself or someone you know? How?

6. What past influences are shaping the actions of the characters of the story?

7. Have any of YOUR thoughts or views changed after reading this book?

8. Did you think the ending was appropriate? How would you have liked to have seen the ending go?