

# Ebb and Flow Discussion Guide

## ABOUT THE BOOK

If there's one thing Jett has learned over the past year, it's that fresh starts aren't all they're cracked up to be. After a "rotten bad year" in a new town, at a new school, Jett returns to the coast to spend the summer with his Grandma Jo, hoping to forget.

But Jett carries a secret with him. As the summer unfolds, he finds himself examining memories of his past like bits of sea glass — arranging and rearranging them in an effort to make sense of his mistakes.

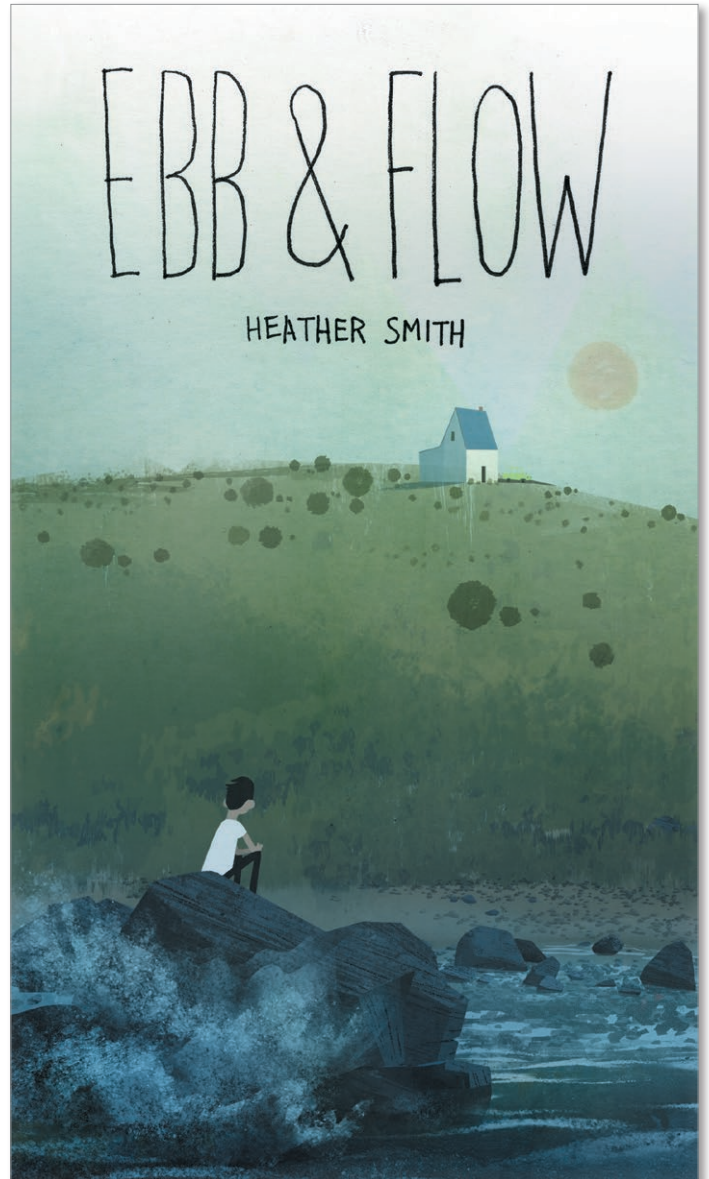
Told in free verse, this captivating story of betrayal and forgiveness will pull readers in ... and not easily let them go.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Originally from Newfoundland, **HEATHER SMITH** now lives in Waterloo, Ontario, with her husband and three children. Heather is the author of several books for children and young adults. *Ebb & Flow* was shortlisted for the 2018 Governor General's Literary Award. Heather's east coast roots inspire much of her writing.

## QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the author chose to tell this story in free verse? Do you think this format added to the telling of the story? If so, how?
2. Jett knows that Junior is a bully. Why do you think Jett decided to be his friend?
3. Do you think Junior was a good friend for Jett? Why or why not?
4. Pick one poem/page and illustrate it.
5. Forgiveness plays a big part in this story. Jett needs to forgive his father, Junior and himself — he also needs forgiveness from Alf. How does Jett's grandma help with this process?
6. Who is your favorite character? Why?
7. If you could tell Jett one thing, what would it be?
8. If you could tell Junior one thing, what would it be?
9. Is Jett a good person? Is Junior?
10. If the author were to write a sequel, what would you like to see happen to the characters?



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