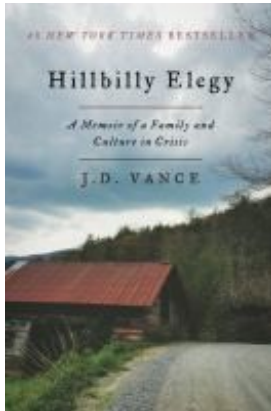


Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

July 30, 2018

Biography:



J.D. Vance grew up in the Rust Belt city of Middletown, Ohio, and spent many summers in the Appalachian town of Jackson, Kentucky. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after high school and served in Iraq. A graduate of the Ohio State University and Yale Law School, he has contributed to the *National Review* and is a principal at a leading Silicon Valley investment firm. In January 2017, Vance became a CNN Contributor. In April 2017, Ron Howard signed on to direct a movie based on *Hillbilly Elegy*. In early 2018, Vance was reported to have been considering a bid for U.S. Senate as a Republican. (From the publisher & Wikipedia.com.)

Similar Resources:



Discussion Questions:

1. What does this book bring to the national conversation about poverty in America? What did you learn about the roots and persistence of poverty?
2. Is there a culture of cruelty surrounding poverty? Why are the poor often referred to as worthless, leaches, and lazy (or otherwise demonized)?
3. What are the positive aspects of Appalachian culture?
4. Discuss the author's resentment towards his neighbors who were receiving welfare but owned cellphones.
5. Vance refers to Appalachian culture as one that is "encouraging social decay" instead of counteracting it. Can you give an example to support his assertion?
6. How has the opioid addiction epidemic affected the lives and communities of Appalachian culture?
7. The Rust Belt has suffered tremendous and pervasive economic hardship with the loss of manufacturing jobs. How can this area of the United States ever recover? (Questions from: www.tosabookclub.com)