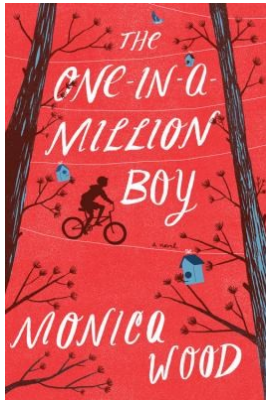


Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

January 29, 2018

Biography:



Monica Wood was born in Maine to a devout Irish Catholic family and grew up with the tradition of storytelling. Her sister and her were the first generation in her family to attend college so she thinks of her background as a literary one. Her fiction titles carry the theme of family throughout. Her older brother and sister are almost a generation older than her and her two sisters. Her parents died young and one of her sisters is mentally disabled, which has kept the family close throughout the years. She works to create characters who appear real despite their circumstances. She also creates an empathy with the reader so that they care about what happens to these characters. Her titles include: Secret Language, The Pocket Muse, My Only Story, and The One-in-a-Million Boy. (Bowker Author Biography)

Similar Resources:



Discussion Questions:

1. How did you perceive the boy's role in the story--as an absence? A presence? A sort of invisible stage manager? Did you sometimes forget that he was gone? Why do you think the author chose not to name him?
2. For the first time in her life, Ona gives away her secrets—to a child. What is it about the boy that Ona instinctively trusts?
3. When Belle says, "I figured you must have worked," Ona is thrilled to have been recognized "as the employable type." Why is her career as a "professional secretary" such a badge of honor for Ona?
4. Quinn is "uneasy around the boy, troubled by the world in which he dwelled." Why do you think that is the case? Why are Quinn and his son so ill-matched?
5. Before meeting the boy, "Ona had believed herself through with friendship." How does old age change Ona's ideas about friendship? Did reading the novel cause you to examine your own friendships?
6. The novel contains a large cast of major and minor characters. Who makes the most significant journey? Is there more than one way to identify "the main character"? To whom does this story ultimately belong?
7. On the final page, the book concludes with an unconventional epilogue. How did you react to it? (*Questions issued by publisher.*)