

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan book discussions, library programs, or classroom activities.

Meet Ohio resident Jenn Bishop, the author of several middle-grade novels.

Select from a range of discussion questions and extension activities to deepen the experience of reading *Where We Used to Roam*.

Discover interviews, readalikes, websites, and other resources to explore topics and themes in depth.

Where We Used to Roam

By Jenn Bishop

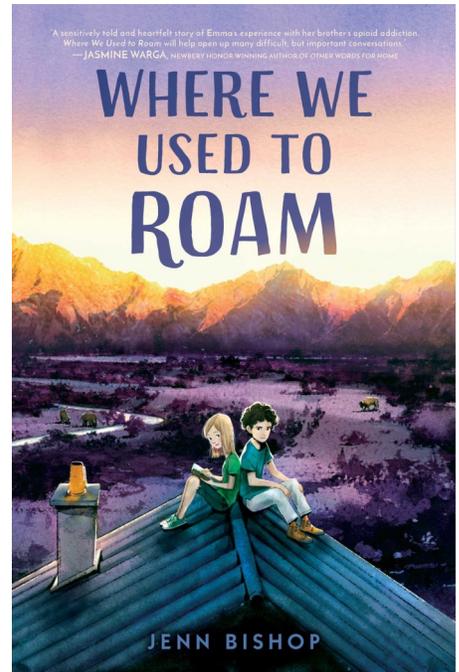


About the Book

When Emma starts sixth grade, things finally begin to change. She may still be in the shadow of her older brother, Austin, the popular high school quarterback, but she's made artsy new friends who get her way more than her bookish best friend, Becca.

But things are changing for Austin, too. After undergoing surgery for a football injury, Austin has become addicted to opioid painkillers. By the end of the school year, everything blows up with Austin—and Becca. When their parents decide to send Austin to rehab and Emma to stay with family friends in Wyoming for the summer, Emma seizes the chance to get away.

Wyoming turns out to be a perfect fresh start, especially after Emma makes friends with Tyler, a kindred spirit who doesn't judge her—then again, he doesn't know what she did to Becca. Still, Emma can't hide forever—or go back to the way things were with Austin or with Becca. But can she find a way to confront the truth and move forward?



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Book Details

Where We Used to Roam by Jenn Bishop.
Aladdin (an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division), 2022.
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Leveled Reading: AR Points 9.0. ATOS Book Level 4.3. 640 Lexile.

www.simonandschuster.net/books/Where-We-Used-to-Roam/Jenn-Bishop/9781534457300

Available as an ebook and digital audiobook through the Ohio Digital Library:
ohiodigitallibrary.com



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**"I don't know
what I was
thinking,
imagining we
could go back to
the people we
used to be . . .
You can never
really go back.
And even if I
could, would I
want to?"**

About the Author

Jenn Bishop is the author of the middle grade novels *Things You Can't Say*, *14 Hollow Road*, *The Distance to Home*, and *Where We Used to Roam*. She grew up in Massachusetts and as a college student spent one incredible summer in Wyoming. She has been obsessed with bison ever since. After working as a children's librarian, she received her MFA in writing for children and young adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Jenn currently calls Cincinnati home. Learn more about Jenn in her own words: jennbishop.com/bio/.

Author Resources

Jenn Bishop's official website
jennbishop.com

Jenn Bishop on *Where We Used to Roam*
readingmiddlegrade.com/jenn-bishop-interview-where-we-used-to-roam/
Afoma Umesi interviews Jenn Bishop for *Reading Middle Grade*.

Jenn Bishop and E.B. Vickers on Connections
nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/2021/04/07/on-connections-by-e-b-vickers-and-jenn-bishop/
Two authors discuss connections and community on *Nerdy Book Club*.

Jenn Bishop reads from *Where We Used to Roam* (video, 13 minutes)
youtu.be/BtPh_F7_xiE

Spotlight on Middle Grade—Ohioana Book Festival 2021 (video, 66 minutes)
youtu.be/4yxT5_0Ah1E
Jenn Bishop and four other Ohio middle-grade authors discuss their work and writing process.

For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:
Visit www.simonandschuster.net/Plan-an-Author-Appearance/How-To

Talk About It!

Topics to share when discussing *Where We Used to Roam* with young readers.

Educators: Every CTRO book may be used to support Ohio's English Language Arts reading, writing, and speaking and listening standards. Other Learning Standards, such as Social and Emotional Learning: Relationship Skills, may also apply. Discussion questions and educational activities for *Where We Used to Roam* align with Learning Standards for Grades 3-5.

Librarians, parents, and others: These activities are also for library programs, family activities, and other projects. Learning Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade. For more information, see the Ohio Department of Education website, education.ohio.gov. From the Topics dropdown menu, click on "Learning in Ohio."

Spoiler warning! Some discussion questions refer to key elements in the book. Do not read if you do not want to find out what happens.

Talk About It (continued)

- Austin encourages Emma to “find your true friends. The ones who *really* get you. Your herd.” What does he mean by this? How do his words impact Emma’s decision to join art club?
- When Emma sees that Becca is taking her baby blanket to Paris, she is bothered. She decides that she is ready to grow up and Becca is not. How do you define being “grown up”? What are signs of maturity? Do you think they’re the same for everyone? Explain your answers using examples from your own life or from the book.
- Why did Emma tell Kennedy about Becca’s baby blanket? Why did Kennedy tell the other campers? How do you think this made Becca feel? Think about a time when you felt embarrassed or alone. What made you feel better? What could you do to help someone else in a similar situation feel better?
- Emma says several times in the story that she wants Austin to be the way he used to be, and she believes the month in rehab will “fix” him. Do you think it’s possible for Austin and his family to be the same as before? How do you think things will change? What are some things that might be worse? What are some things that might be better?
- As Austin gets ready to enter rehab, Emma’s parents send her to stay with family friends in Wyoming for the summer—people she barely remembers. How does Emma feel about the trip? What are some reasons she might want to stay at home? What are some reasons to go to Wyoming?
- In Wyoming, Emma finds a new friend in Tyler. How are Emma’s and Tyler’s families similar? How are they different?
- The privilege that Emma and her family experience is evident throughout this story. How does privilege play a role in what happens with Austin in comparison to what happened with Tyler’s mom?
- Emma realizes by the end of the book that her friendship with Becca is changing as their different interests evolve. Can people “grow apart” and still be friends?

Some discussion questions are from **A Curriculum Guide to Where We Used to Roam**; used with permission. For additional discussion questions and extension activities, go to jennbishop.com/books/where-we-used-to-roam/ and scroll down to the Curriculum Guide download link.

Go Further!

*Ideas for extending the experience of reading **Where We Used to Roam**.*

Emma loves art and is inspired to create shadow boxes after seeing the art of Joseph Cornell. Create your own shadow box using everyday objects. What experience, idea, or feeling do you want to convey? Before starting, think about the components of your shadow box. Will it include words as well as objects? What colors will help show the idea or feeling you want to share? What objects will you include in your shadow box?

When European explorers first landed in North America, an estimated 30 million bison roamed the Great Plains of what is now the United States. By the late 1800s, fewer than 2,000 bison remained. Using online resources available to students through INFOhio (infohio.org) and to all Ohio residents through Ohio Web Library (ohioweblibrary.org), research the factors that caused this astounding drop in numbers and the actions that saved the bison from extinction.

Emma is reluctant to join art club at first, even though she loves art. Is there something you would love to do or learn about, but haven’t started yet? Visit the Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center through INFOhio (infohio.org) or Ohio Web Library (ohioweblibrary.org) to explore activities that range from crafts and performing arts to outdoor recreation and science.

Explore More!

Additional ideas and resources to use with **Where We Used to Roam**.

SAMHSA National Helpline

www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service for individuals and families facing substance use disorders. The web page also links to "[What Is Substance Abuse Treatment? A Booklet for Families](#)," which addresses the questions and concerns of children whose parents have substance abuse problems.

What Is Friendship?

people.howstuffworks.com/what-is-friendship.htm

From HowStuffWorks, an overview of friendship and its benefits, the different types of friends, and healthy ways to respond when a friendship is under stress.

Fun Facts about Bison

www.doi.gov/blog/15-facts-about-our-national-mammal-american-bison

What's the difference between a bison and a buffalo? How big do they grow? What's a "red dog"? Can you really judge a bison's mood by its tail? The U.S. Department of the Interior shares fun facts about our national mammal.

Yellowstone National Park

www.nps.gov/media/webcam/view.htm?id=81b468ab-1dd8-b71b-0be84d8e8e0f1112

Even if you can't travel to Yellowstone, you can still see what's happening via webcams that update once per minute. This view is from the park's North Entrance, facing Electric Peak. Bison, elk, and pronghorn can sometimes be seen grazing in the distance.

Check It Out!

Recommended for readers of **Where We Used to Roam**. Look for these books at your school or public library and ask your librarian for more recommendations!

Any Day with You by Mae Respicio

Breathing Underwater by Sarah Allen

Bringing Me Back by Beth Vrabel

Class Act by Jerry Craft

Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly

Life in the Balance by Jen Petro-Roy

Rule of Threes by Marcy Campbell (A Choose to Read Ohio selection)

Stick with Me by Jennifer Blecher

Train I Ride by Paul Mosier

The Year of the Book by Andrea Cheng (A Choose to Read Ohio selection)

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: library.ohio.gov/ctro.

Toolkit created by Stephanie Michaels, State Library of Ohio, January 2023. Links and other information are accurate at the time of publication.