Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo

1. Boo portrays the characters realistically, each with their own personality, strengths, and shortcomings. What character resonated with you the most?

2. How did this book challenge your conceptions about people living in poverty today?

3. What are some of the factors or layers of poverty that inhibited the people of Annawadi to improve their own well-being? How do relationships, police corruption, and a lack of resources all contribute to the characters’ experiences with poverty?

4. Describe how your feelings towards the book changed as you read. Was it challenging to read as the characters’ situations worsened? Did you see hope throughout the book?

5. Fatima is a character that is widely despised and looked down upon by most of the people, before and after her death. Her identity and personality have clearly been shaped her disability. Do you feel sympathy or anger toward Fatima and her actions?

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