



Commissioner's Book Club

When We Were Alone

Discussion guide

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Art can help make things better in society. It can do this in many ways. One way is by showing people what's unfair in the world. Art can also help people understand each other better. When we read a story about someone's life, we can imagine what it's like to be them. Art can also be a way for people to stand up for what's right and to feel like we all belong.

We hope that both adults and children will engage with these books, and that caregivers find these discussion questions useful in initiating conversations with the young people in their lives:

- ★ What was the granddaughter curious about? Why do you think she was curious?
- ★ What are some things the grandmother said she wasn't allowed to do as a child? How do you think she felt about that?
- ★ What are some things the children did to remember who they were?
- ★ Why do you think the children had to hide who they were?
- ★ Why do you think the grandmother wears bright colors now?
- ★ How do stories help us learn about the past?