



Name _____

Date _____

A Northern Light

by Jennifer Donnelly



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Sixteen-year-old Mattie Gokey has a word for everything, and big dreams of being a writer but little hope of seeing them come true. With the fresh pain of her mother's death lingering over her and the only out from her impoverished life being marriage to the handsome but dull local rich boy, Mattie flees from her home. She takes a job at the Glenmore, where hotel guest Grace Brown entrusts her with the task of burning a secret bundle of letters. But when Grace's drowned body is fished from Big Moose Lake, Mattie discovers that the letters could reveal the grim truth behind a murder. Set in 1906 in the Adirondack Mountains, against the backdrop of the murder that inspired Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*, this Printz Honor-winning coming-of-age novel effortlessly weaves romance, history, and a murder mystery into something moving, and real, and wholly original.

- A Printz Award Honor Book!

Who Wrote It?

Jennifer was born in New York and before becoming a writer worked as an antiques dealer, journalist, and copywriter. With her first novel for teen readers, Jennifer Donnelly achieved the distinction of being only the second American author to win Great Britain's prestigious Carnegie Medal for children's literature. Donnelly's *A Northern Light* was originally published in England as *A Gathering Light*. When she writes, she usually has a pot of strong tea and a bar of dark chocolate for company and courage. She plots and plans and schemes and dreams in longhand, but does the actual writing on my computer. Jennifer



now makes her home in Brooklyn, New York, where she lives with her husband, daughter, and two greyhounds. You can connect with her via her website: www.jenniferdonnelly.com

AR Reading Level: 4.5

Lexile Level: 700L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.