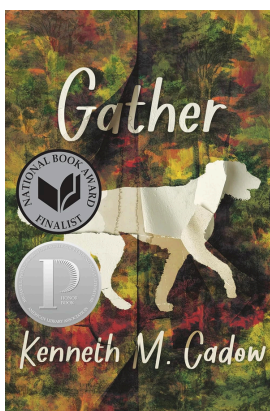


Name _____

Date _____



Gather

by Kenneth M. Cadow

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.



Read Aloud Video

**** I'd recommend this book for grades 7+. Please know there are trigger warnings related to addiction and extreme poverty. More about this information can be found in the video description box. ****

What's It About?

Ian Gray isn't supposed to have a dog, but a lot of things that shouldn't happen end up happening anyway. And *Gather*, Ian's adopted pup, is good company now that Ian has to quit the basketball team, find a job, and take care of his mom as she tries to overcome her opioid addiction. Despite the obstacles thrown their way, Ian is determined to keep his family afloat no matter what it takes. And for a little while, things are looking up: Ian makes friends, and his fondness for the outdoors and for fixing things lands him work helping neighbors. But an unforeseen tragedy results in Ian and his dog taking off on the run, trying to evade a future that would mean leaving their house and their land. Even if the community comes together to help him, would Ian and *Gather* have a home to return to?

Told in a wry, cautious first-person voice that meanders like a dog circling to be sure it's safe to lie down, Kenneth M. Cadow's resonant debut brings an emotional and ultimately hopeful story of one teen's resilience in the face of unthinkable hardships.

A 2023 National Book Award Finalist
A Michael L. Printz Honor Book

"Arguably one of the finest novels of the year."—Booklist (starred review)

Who Wrote It?

Ken grew up in Poughkeepsie, NY next to the Hudson River and surrounded by trees, as one of 7 siblings. He loved the outdoors and spent a lot of time exploring the woods and salt marshes around his house. He says he has terrible handwriting and sold his first story for twenty-five cents. Ken read A LOT. His fifth grade teacher told him, 'I hope you don't burn your eyes out this summer,' - meaning, don't read too many books! Lol! *Old Yeller*, *The Animal Family*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *Dominic* were some of his favorites. As grown up, Ken is a teacher and co-



Photo by Lars Blackmore

principal. He writes in a cabin near his house. *Gather* is his first book and it has won 3 awards. He has a wife, 3 children and a dog, Quinnie.

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Lexile Level: Unavailable

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.