

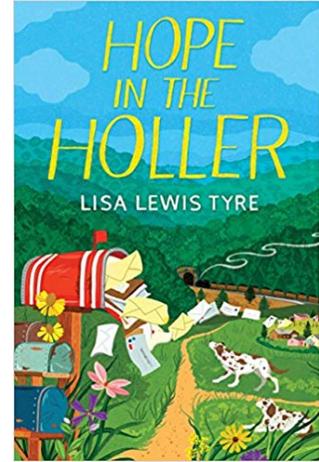


# Kids Book Club Kit | Darien Library

*Hope in the Holler* by Lisa Lewis Tyre

Recommended for grades 4 to 6

**Summary:** Right before Wavie's mother died, she gave Wavie a list of instructions to help her find her way in life, including this one: Be brave, Wavie B! You got as much right to a good life as anybody, so find it! But little did Wavie's mom know that events would conspire to bring Wavie back to Conley Hollow, the Appalachian hometown her mother tried to leave behind. Now Wavie's back in the Holler--and in the clutches of her Aunt Samantha Rose. Life with the devilish Samantha Rose and her revolting cousin Hoyt is no picnic, but there's real pleasure in sleeping in her own mother's old bed, and making friends with the funny, easygoing kids her aunt calls the "neighborhood-no-accounts." With their help, Wavie just might be able to prevent her aunt from becoming her legal guardian, and find her courage and place in the world.



## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What hints does Wavie have that her aunt may not be telling her the entire truth? What hints does the reader have?
2. Why is the mystery about Wavie's "crazy neighbor" important to the story?
3. The Holler's families have a lot of food insecurity—that is, they often don't have enough to eat, and feel hungry. How do Wavie and her friends deal with this? How are they helped at school? How are they helped in their neighborhood?
4. The kids of the Holler are poor, but they support each other. Talk about how they show each other they care.
5. Bullying is a central theme of this book. Have you ever met an adult who is a bully like Wavie's aunt and uncle? How does Wavie survive her aunt's awful home?
6. At the end of the book, Wavie discovers a kind, well-off family who has always wanted her. Do you think the ending is realistic?

## **Further Resources:**

Information on food insecurity: <https://dar.to/2Xgn2nK>

The author's blog, including 10 fun facts about the book: <https://dar.to/2Xdaaix>

## **Activities**

Do an internet search for pictures of the Appalachian mountains in Kentucky, where the book is set. Gather your favorite art supplies (watercolor, colored pencil, etc.) and create your own illustrations of the scene.