

Reader's Guide for
Shift
A Debut Young Adult Novel
by Jennifer Bradbury

About the Book

Shift tells two stories: the journey of Chris Collins and his best friend Win as they bicycle from West Virginia to Washington state and Chris's challenge to discover what happened to Win after returning home without him. Told in chapters alternating between the original trip and Chris's quest to discover the fate of his friend and their friendship, *Shift* explores the depths of loyalty, the depths of friendship and the unknowable depths of another person.

About the Author

Until last year, Jennifer Bradbury spent her days as a high school English teacher in Burlington, Washington. Now she's a stay at home mom who writes during naptimes. She and her husband rode their bikes cross-country from South Carolina to Southern California on their honeymoon, and have since toured in Alaska and the San Juan Islands.

Discussion Questions

1. *Shift* uses chapters alternating between flashbacks and current action. How does this structure allow readers to see the changes the trip brought about in Chris? In Win?
2. How do events in the flashbacks complement action in the present-day chapters? Vice-versa?
3. Chris and Win are in large part defined by their relationships with their fathers. Compare and contrast the two men and their influences on their sons.
4. Chris and Win experience a dramatic shift in their friendship leading Chris to some startling discoveries about who he truly is. Have you had experiences where you held on too long to a friendship or relationship without meaning to?
5. Chris and Win encounter a number of adventures and strange moments out on the road. Pick a favorite and discuss how it contributes to what you think is one of the book's themes.

Activity

Plan your own adventure. Pick a route to travel across the United States, decide on your mode of transportation and whom you'd want as a traveling companion. What adventures would you hope to have? What things would you look forward to learning about your traveling partner?