

Reader's Guide  
For  
*Autumn Winifred Oliver Does Things Different*  
by  
Kristin O'Donnell Tubb  
A Debut Middle Grade Novel

About the Book

Autumn Winifred Oliver prides herself on doing things her way. But she meets her match when she moves in with her cantankerous Gramps. The Oliver girls were supposed to join Pop in Knoxville for some big-city living, but Gramps's recent sick spell convinced Mama to stay put in Cades Cove.

Folks in the Cove are all aflutter about turning their land into a national park, and Autumn's not sure what to think. Loggers like Pop need jobs, but if things keep going at the current rate, the forests will soon be chopped to bits. And Gramps seems to think there's some serious tourist money to be made. Can Autumn's family and friends save their homes from the chainsaw by partnering with the slick Colonel Chapman and other park volunteers?

About the Author

Kristin O'Donnell Tubb grew up in East Tennessee, near Cades Cove. "Autumn's story came to me when I was on a guided tour of Great Smoky Mountains National Park," she says. "There we were, standing in what was once someone's home, and I thought: What if my home became a national park? How does something like that even happen? When I did a little research, I discovered the fascinating history of the people of Cades Cove."

*Autumn Winifred Oliver Does Things Different* is Kristin's first novel. She lives in central Tennessee with her husband and two children.

Discussion Questions

1. One of the themes of *Autumn* is that sometimes it's hard to tell what is good and what is evil. Do you find this to be true? Why do you think that is? What today could be seen as either good or evil, depending on how you look at it?
2. Autumn Oliver's home eventually becomes part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. What if your home was turned into a national park? What do you think someone 75 or 100 years from now would find most interesting about your home? What kinds of things might change about your home after an entire century of visitors have passed through your doors? What might be the same?
3. Autumn repeats a *mantra* whenever she finds herself in a tight spot: "I do things different." Do you have a mantra? If so, what is it and when do you use it? If not, develop one that might be useful, and describe when it might come in handy.
4. Autumn finds herself befriending Cody, who seemed an unlikely pal at first meeting. Have you ever had an impression of someone that changed over time? If so, who was it, and how did your views of this person change? What caused you to change your mind?
5. Autumn is eleven years old, an age that she describes as "a crack in life" because she's neither a kid nor a grown up. How would you describe your current age? Why?

Activity

Imagine your neighborhood as a national park. Make a brochure for your new park: draw a map of the places that tourists would most want to see, and describe these attractions in way that will entice visitors.