



# Lake Burntshore

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Lake Burntshore* by Aaron Kreuter is a funny and emotionally resonant coming-of-age novel about one summer of momentous change. A social satire, romance, and political commentary all in one, *Lake Burntshore* celebrates the contemporary Jewish world through its most iconic symbol — the often idyllic yet always dramatic summer camp.

- 1 *Lake Burntshore* is about one summer at a Jewish sleepover camp. Do you relate to the teens and young adults at Camp Burntshore? Does it remind you of your adolescence?
- 2 Among the large cast of characters, which one do you connect with the most? Ruby, the firebrand activist? Etai, the reluctant soldier? Stolow, the stoned musician? Or someone else?
- 3 At the core of *Lake Burntshore* are the characters' differing views on politics and Jewish identity. Is this kind of internal conflict something you have experienced in your community?
- 4 Which city do *you* think makes the best bagels?
- 5 Camp Burntshore is situated next to the fictional Black Spruce First Nation, a relationship that has been friendly but can also be uneasy. Did *Lake Burntshore* encourage you to think about Canada's history of colonialism and the path to reconciliation?
- 6 There are a lot of firsts in *Lake Burntshore*: first kisses, first girl/boyfriends, first jobs, etc. Did any of these remind you of one of your firsts? What do you think it is about adolescence that makes every first so memorable?