

## A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan book discussions, library programs, or classroom activities.

Meet Ohio author Mindy McGinnis and learn about her debut novel.

Select from a range of discussion questions and extension activities to deepen the experience of reading *Not a Drop to Drink*.

Discover nonfiction titles, websites, and documentaries to explore topics and themes in depth.

# Not a Drop to Drink

By Mindy McGinnis



## About the Book

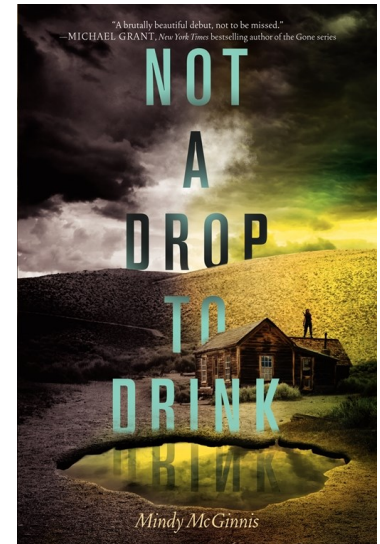
Regret was for people with nothing to defend, people who had no water.

Lynn knows every threat to her pond: drought, a snowless winter, coyotes, and, most important, people looking for a drink. She makes sure anyone who comes near the pond leaves thirsty, or doesn't leave at all.

Confident in her own abilities, Lynn has no use for the world beyond the nearby fields and forest. Having a life means dedicating it to survival and the constant work of gathering wood and water. Having a pond requires the fortitude to protect it, something Mother taught her well during their quiet hours on the rooftop, rifles in hand.

But wisps of smoke on the horizon mean one thing: strangers. The mysterious footprints by the pond, the nighttime threats, and the gunshots make it all too clear Lynn has exactly what they want, and they won't stop until they get it...

With drama, danger, and romance, debut author Mindy McGinnis depicts one girl's journey in a barren world not so different from our own.



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## Book Details

***Not a Drop to Drink*** by Mindy McGinnis.

HarperCollins, 2013, ISBN 9780062198501 . Ages 14-17. HL820 Lexile.

[www.harpercollins.com/books/Not-Drop-Drink-Mindy-McGinnis/?isbn=9780062198501](http://www.harpercollins.com/books/Not-Drop-Drink-Mindy-McGinnis/?isbn=9780062198501)

Available as an ebook and digital audiobook through the Ohio Digital Library:  
[ohiodigitallibrary.com](http://ohiodigitallibrary.com)

***In a Handful of Dust***, a companion novel to ***Not a Drop to Drink***, is set ten years after the first novel, as a dangerous disease strikes the community where teenage Lucy lives. When her adoptive mother, Lynn, takes Lucy away from their home and friends in order to protect her, Lucy struggles to figure out what home means.  
[www.harpercollins.com/books/9780062198532](http://www.harpercollins.com/books/9780062198532)



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## About the Author

Mindy McGinnis is the author of *Not a Drop to Drink* and *In a Handful of Dust* and is an assistant YA librarian who lives in Ohio. She cans her own food, and graduated from Otterbein University magna cum laude with a BA in English literature and religion.

Mindy has a pond in her backyard but has never shot anyone.

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## Author Resources

**Mindy McGinnis's official website**

[mindymcginnis.com/](http://mindymcginnis.com/)

**Author Page on HarperCollins website**

[www.harpercollinschildrens.com/Kids/AuthorsAndIllustrators/ContributorDetail.aspx?CId=39467](http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/Kids/AuthorsAndIllustrators/ContributorDetail.aspx?CId=39467)

**Mindy McGinnis's Blog: Writer, Writer, Pants on Fire**

[writerwriterpantsonfire.blogspot.com/](http://writerwriterpantsonfire.blogspot.com/)

**School Library Journal Q&A with Mindy McGinnis**

[www.slj.com/2014/06/authors-illustrators/interviews/q-a-with-librarian-and-ya-author-mindy-mcginnis-of-not-a-drop-to-drink/](http://www.slj.com/2014/06/authors-illustrators/interviews/q-a-with-librarian-and-ya-author-mindy-mcginnis-of-not-a-drop-to-drink/)

**Teenreads.com Interview with Mindy McGinnis about *Not a Drop to Drink***

[www.teenreads.com/authors/mindy-mcginnis/news/interview-092413](http://www.teenreads.com/authors/mindy-mcginnis/news/interview-092413)

**For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:**

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## Go Further

*Ideas for extending the experience of reading **Not a Drop to Drink**.*

**"You can't  
change  
the things  
you've done.**

**It's now and the  
here on out  
you've got  
control of."**

In order to ensure their water is safe to drink, Lynn and her mother must let it sit out in the sun all day on metal sheets. Have young readers research how their drinking water is purified. How is drinking water purified around the world? What are some dangers of drinking unpurified water? Explore the **Solar Water Disinfection: Safe Drinking Water for All** resource to see one way that is used to purify drinking water that is similar to the method used by Lynn and her mother: [www.sodis.ch/methode/index\\_EN](http://www.sodis.ch/methode/index_EN).

In **Not a Drop to Drink**, many families and individuals have decided to leave cities and move into the country due to the availability of water. Have students research human migrations using online resources available to students through INFOhio ([www.infohio.org/](http://www.infohio.org/)) and to all Ohio residents through Ohio Web Library ([www.ohioweblibrary.org/](http://www.ohioweblibrary.org/)). What are some examples of people throughout history moving due to the availability of natural resources, or for more freedom? Do these situations relate to the situation in **Not a Drop to Drink**?

## Talk About It

Topics to share when discussing **Not a Drop to Drink** with teens.

**Educators:** Every CTRO book may be used to support Ohio's English Language Arts reading, writing, and speaking and listening standards. **Not a Drop to Drink** may also support standards in Science (Environmental Science: Global Environmental Problems and Issues) and Social Studies (World Geography: Movement). Discussion questions and educational activities for **Not a Drop to Drink** align with Learning Standards for Grades 9-12.

**Librarians, parents, and others:** These activities are also for library programs, family activities, and other projects. Learning Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade. For more information, see the Ohio Department of Education website, [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov). From the Topics dropdown menu, click on "Learning in Ohio."

What habits and characteristics has Lynn picked up from her mother? Which of those are beneficial to her? Which of them might she be better off without? Give examples and defend your answers.

Is this scenario of this world realistic? Is water shortage a valid concern?

Do you agree with how Lynn's mother has raised her to see "others"? If so, defend with evidence from the text and your own opinions. If not, how do you think she should have handled things? Why do you think that would have been better?

By the end of the novel, how is Lynn's outlook on the world different from Mother's? How is it similar? Why does she see things and people differently than her mother did?

How far in the future do you think the novel is supposed to take place? Defend your response with specific examples from the text.

How does living in a world with a water shortage affect the way Lynn lives? How does it affect the way she understands people?

Lynn learns something from Stebbs, Eli, Lucy, and Neva. What does she learn from each of them? How does knowing them change her as a person?

Is water the worst resource to lose? If so, defend your answer with evidence from the text and with your own ideas and opinions. If not, what resource would be worse to lose and why? Compare life without that resource to Lynn's life without water.

How are Lynn and her mother similar and how are they different? In what ways is Lynn's relationship with Lucy similar to or different from Lynn's relationship with her mother?

Can you relate the situation of water shortage in **Not a Drop to Drink** to any current situations or events taking place in the world?

Some discussion questions courtesy of Katherine Tegen Books ([www.mindymcginnis.com//DG%20Whole%20NADTD-2.pdf](http://www.mindymcginnis.com//DG%20Whole%20NADTD-2.pdf)).

## Go Further (continued)

Survival in harsh conditions is one of the main topics covered in **Not a Drop to Drink**. Imagine you are dropped into a remote location with limited supplies. What are some of the resources you would need to survive? What are some strategies you would use to protect yourself from strangers or animals?

In **Not a Drop to Drink** Eli, Lucy and Neva live in a city that carefully monitored its water supply. What agencies are responsible for the disaster preparedness protocol in your city? Who has access to these resources?

## Check It Out

Companion books and documentaries for **Not a Drop to Drink**.

Read **Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization** by Steven Solomon. (ISBN 9780060548315). In **Water**, esteemed journalist Steven Solomon describes a terrifying—and all too real—world in which access to fresh water has replaced oil as the primary cause of global conflicts that increasingly emanate from drought-ridden, overpopulated areas of the world.

Read **Not a Drop to Drink: America's Water Crisis** by Ken Midkiff and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (ISBN 9781930722682). In some parts of the United States, water is disappearing as consumption exceeds supply. In other parts, battles are raging that will determine both the cost and the quality of a simple glass of water. This book comprehensively examines the imminent crisis of America's water supply and explains what readers everywhere can do about it. Using regional and national case studies, Midkiff analyzes and presents the roots of the problem, and then says what we must do to solve it.

Watch **Water Wars** (2009). This timely documentary uncovers critical water issues facing humanity. It takes the viewer from the floods and droughts in Bangladesh, to dam building in India, water management in the Netherlands and the latest wake-up call in America: the Katrina disaster and the drought in the Southwest. Future wars will be fought over access to fresh water, unless we come together to face this global crisis. Without water there is no life.

[www.imdb.com/title/tt1509836/](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1509836/)

Watch **Blue Gold: World Water Wars** (2008). Wars of the future will be fought over water as they are over oil today, as the source of human survival enters the global marketplace and political arena. Corporate giants, private investors, and corrupt governments vie for control of our dwindling supply, prompting protests, lawsuits, and revolutions from citizens fighting for the right to survive. Past civilizations have collapsed from poor water management. Can the human race survive?

[www.imdb.com/title/tt1137439/](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1137439/)

Companion materials courtesy of Katherine Tegen Books  
([www.mindymcginnis.com//DG%20Whole%20NADTD-2.pdf](http://www.mindymcginnis.com//DG%20Whole%20NADTD-2.pdf)). Used with permission.

## Explore More

Additional ideas and resources to use with **Not a Drop to Drink**.

### The Water Project: Teaching Tools and Resources – All About Water

[thewaterproject.org/resources/](http://thewaterproject.org/resources/)

The Water Project has put together comprehensive resources, activities and experiments relating to water. Resources are available for grades K-12.

### Mindy McGinnis's Educators Page

[mindymcginnis.com/educators.html](http://mindymcginnis.com/educators.html)

This page on the official Mindy McGinnis website offers chapter discussion questions, quiz questions, reader discussion questions, and companion readings for **Not a Drop to Drink**.

### Solar Water Disinfection: Safe Drinking Water for All

[www.sodis.ch/methode/index\\_EN](http://www.sodis.ch/methode/index_EN)

This website provides an in-depth look at one solution that is currently used to purify drinking water.

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: [library.ohio.gov/ctro](http://library.ohio.gov/ctro).

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