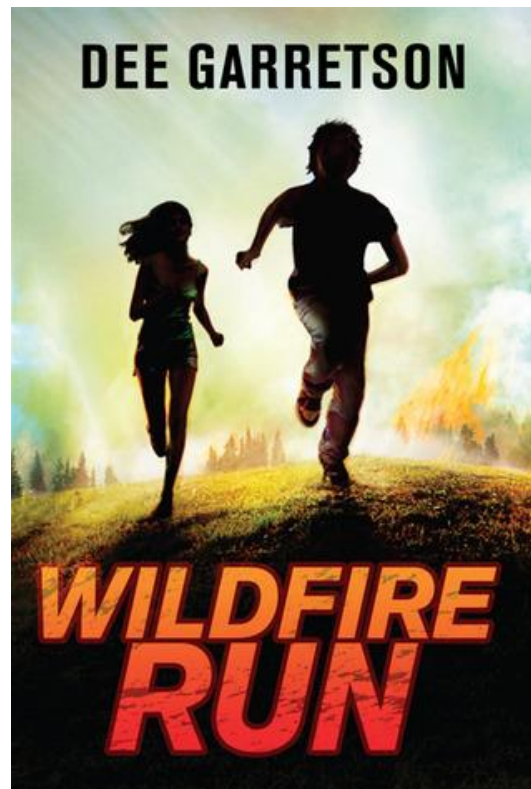


***Wildfire Run* by Dee Garretson (Harper, 2010)**

The President's son, Luke, and his friends are constantly being watched by Secret Service agents at Camp David. But when things spiral out of control, Luke and his friends are suddenly on their own, racing to escape a raging wildfire.



1. Even though Luke is the main character, the first part of the book is written from several different characters' points of view. Why do you think the author chose to do this?
2. How has Luke's personality been affected by growing up with Secret Service protection? Why is he so afraid of sirens?
3. Why do you think Callie's father is concerned she won't fit in at her new school if she wears her cowboy boots?
4. Both Luke and Callie remember what happened with Callie's horse, when Luke was last at the ranch, but they don't remember it the same way. How do their memories differ? Why do you think they have different memories of it? P. 39 Callie's point of view, p. 45 Luke
5. Why does Luke's father always say "make haste slowly" to Luke? What do you think it means?
7. Why do you think the kitten is so important to Callie?
8. The three important characters, Luke, Callie and Theo all have very different personalities. What did each contribute?

9. Luke is used to being constantly watch and protected, doing what others tell him. At what point in the book does he start to make his own decisions?

10. Chapter 21 is called "The Quagmire." A quagmire can be defined as a difficult predicament. What quagmire are the characters faced with in this chapter?

11. Why do you think Luke says his new motto (chapter 29) is "Have lots of back-up plans?"

12. It's ironic that the security systems to keep people out of Camp David are what trap the kids in. What did you think of Luke's plan to get through the defense system?

13. The nature of bravery is an important part of the story. Why does Luke's father like the quote by Virgil, 'Yield not to misfortunes, but go boldly to meet them.' How does this quote relate to what happens in the story?

Why did Luke refuse to leave Adam behind? Why did he insist on being last to be taken up in the helicopter?

13. After the rescue Luke says he was "Not feeling much of anything." Why do you think he feels this way?

The above questions were adapted from author Dee Garretson's web page where you can find lots of fascinating information about Camp David and the Secret Service.

<http://www.deegarretson.com/>

Caroline Ward,,
The Ferguson Library