

Carey Page Turner's March 19th Discussion

DEAR EDWARD

By ANN NAPOLITANO

Characters:



- *Dear Edward* was directly inspired by the real-life story of Ruben van Assouw who lost his own family in a situation similar to Edward's (plane traveling from South Africa to London crashed in 2010 with 9-yr. old boy as the sole survivor). Did you remember this real-life instance? Did reading the novel affect how you think of tragedies that are reported in the news?
- Do you normally pick up books that are tragic? Do you have to be in the right mindset to read them?
- What did you think of the first chapter when the author introduced us to all of the different characters? What was your perception of them? Did you feel differently knowing they would all die soon?
- What did you think of the stories of the passengers also on the flight? Did any of them stand out to you? Were there too many characters to follow?
- Do you normally interact with people around you on a flight? Which of the other passengers on the plane did you identify with most? After reading this book, do you think your perception of your fellow passengers will change?
- What do you think of the relationship between Edward and Shay? Why do you think they seemed to click right away? Discuss how their relationship plays out.

- What did you think of Edward's aunt and uncle's decision to keep the letters from him? Do you think they were unfair or in his best interest?
- What, if any, responsibility do you think Edward has in reading or responding to any of the letters sent to him? Why do you think so many loved ones of the victims sent him messages? What are they hoping for?
- When Edward turns 15 years old, he decides he will do things like his dead brother, Jordan. He wears Jordan's clothes and becomes a vegan. How does this help him get better and recover?
- What do you think about the payout in damages by the airline? Edward gets \$5 million as the sole survivor of the crash and the surviving families get \$1 million. How do you put a price on a life?
- What do you think about Edward's idea to do something with the money that was given to him? What motivated him to do that? Was it a way for him to recover?
- Are you surprised Edward wants to become a teacher?
- What moment from the book will stick with you the longest?

Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10