



YouthREAD 2019

**Chapter Book Selection
Grades 4-5**

*Community*READ 2019

FINDLAY - HANCOCK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE DISTANCE TO HOME

Written by Jenn Bishop

Last summer, Quinnen was the star pitcher of her baseball team. This summer, everything is different. Her big sister's death has left Quinnen's family reeling. The one glimmer of happiness comes from hosting a minor-league baseball player for the season. By the end of the summer, can Quinnen make peace with the past and return to the pitcher's mound?

Join our CommunityREAD by reading and sharing this book, then enrich the experience with these questions and activities.

Discussion Questions

1. Which character did you connect with the most in this book?
2. Why do you think the author chose to structure the novel in "this summer" and "last summer" chapters?
3. Quinnen listens to the radio show *After Midnight*, where people call in to share their experiences and make song requests. Quinnen tells the reader that "It helps hearing other people's stories." Do you agree that hearing what others have been through can help in difficult times? Why or why not?
4. How do books connect Quinnen and Haley and their mother? Are there any books that have helped you connect with friends or family members?

Activities

1. Quinnen loves listening to the radio show *After Midnight*. Have readers put together a list of songs (title and artist) that Quinnen might request throughout the book. Have them write a few sentences about why Quinnen would choose each song.
2. Have readers research something about baseball that interested them: the life of a famous player, nearby minor league teams, the history of baseball or a baseball team, baseball stats, baseball in other countries, women in baseball, etc. Turn what they have learned into a writing assignment or a presentation.