

## About THINGS THAT FALL

The seven Hacher cousins have not seen each other in ten years but when tragedy strikes and their uncle Simon dies they come together to help clear his cottage. There they discover that there may be more to their father's feud than they originally realized, secrets hidden that they all have stored away in their minds without knowing. Together they will have to unravel years of secrets while trying to keep their own and hope they still have people to call family in the end.

While packing boxes and skipping down memory lane isn't what any of them had planned for Thanksgiving weekend but for Kayla, Hailey, Thomas, Nolan, Allison, Eli, and Forrester they the holiday leads to much more than bonding including uncovering family secrets and realizing blood really is thicker than water.

## About MERE JOYCE

**Mere Joyce** is a Canadian author, she has written five other books including *Shadows* which was on Canadian Children's Book Centre's list of Best Books for Kids and Teens Fall 2018. She has a special insight into the heads of readers as not only an avid reader herself but also as a librarian.

## Curriculum

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 English

## Student Objectives

After reading *Things That Fall*, students should be able to:

- Identify different elements of style in texts and explain how they help communicate meaning and enhance the effectiveness of the text.
- Make and explain inferences about texts, supporting their explanations with well-chosen stated and implied ideas from the texts.
- Identify the most important ideas and supporting details in texts.
- Make and explain inferences of increasing subtlety about texts, including increasingly complex or difficult texts, supporting their explanations with well-chosen stated and implied ideas from the texts.
- Analyse texts in terms of the information, ideas, issues, and themes they explore, examining how various aspects of the texts contribute to the presentation or development of these elements.

## Getting Started

- Discuss Rhett syndrome and other developmental disorders.
- Discuss coming-of-age novels in young adult literature.
- Ask the students to define family. Discuss.
- Introduce the Group of Seven

## Discussion Questions

1. Make a prediction about what happened in the family to make them not speak to each other for a decade.
2. Why do you think the author chose to set the book during Thanksgiving?
3. Kayla tries to find her cousins on various social media, but isn't very successful (p 33). How can social media help to build and/or maintain familial relationships? How can it hinder them?
4. Write about an event from your childhood that features your siblings, cousins, or anyone else you consider to be family.
5. Discuss the style of writing and how it changes between each narrator.
6. Have you ever/would you ever voluntarily give up your cell phone for the weekend?
7. Discuss the history of Indigenous people in Canada. What is Hailey worried about finding? (132)
8. What is the significance of the artist group, the Group of Seven to the Hacher family?
9. Do you think that Julie should be buried with the rest of the Hacher family despite her lineage? Why or why not?
10. What does the cottage mean to the Hachers? Is its significance different for each of the cousins?

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