



# Lit Kits

For Tween Book Club  
9-12 Year olds

## **McAllen Public Library Lit Kit Procedure**

Lit Kits are available for check-out to McAllen Public Library cardholders for use in facilitating book clubs. Lit Kits are boxed in containers with up to 16 books of the same title and include a binder with book discussion questions and an inventory tracker for use by the book club facilitator.

### **Searching for Lit Kits**

- A list of current Lit Kits is available in our catalog. To search, type “lit kits” in the “Search the Catalog” field on our webpage:  
<http://www.mcallenlibrary.net>.
- Patrons with a current McAllen Public Library card can place a hold on a lit kit and select the preferred MPL branch pick-up location. The patron will be notified when the kit is ready for pick-up.

### **Borrowing and Returning Kits**

- Lit Kits are checked out for six weeks and may be renewed one time.
- One Lit Kit may be checked out per library cardholder at one time.
- Only one library cardholder may check out a Lit Kit. This person is responsible for returning the complete kit by the due date.
- Single copies of the books in the kits cannot be checked out.
- Lit Kits must be returned to any McAllen Public Library location.
- A daily late fee of .10 cents a day per unit will be assessed for kits returned after the due date. Replacement costs will also be charged for lost or damaged materials.
- Library staff will check the content of each Lit Kit at the time of check-out and check-in. The replacement of any missing items shall be the responsibility of the cardholder.

**Book: Alone**  
**By Megan E. Freeman**  
**Published: 2021**

**Ages: 10+**  
**Reading Level: 4.7**  
**Pages: 416**  
**Genre: Coming-of-Age, Survival, Action**  
**Stand Alone Title**



## BOOK SUMMARY

When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She's alone—left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned.

With no one to rely on, no power, and no working phone lines or internet access, Maddie slowly learns to survive on her own. Her only companions are a Rottweiler named George and all the books she can read. After a rough start, Maddie learns to trust her own ingenuity and invents clever ways to survive in a place that has been deserted and forgotten.

As months pass, she escapes natural disasters, looters, and wild animals. But Maddie's most formidable enemy is the crushing loneliness she faces every day. Can Maddie's stubborn will to survive carry her through the most frightening experience of her life?

**Source:** <https://www.meganfreeman.com>

## THEMES:

COMING-OF-AGE, SURVIVAL, LONELINESS, DIVORCE, INDEPENDENCE,  
HOPE, FAMILY, FRIENDSHIP

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Maddie end up feeling about being apart from her family after she's left behind? Do you think Maddie gets the kind of freedom she was seeking when she's living alone?
2. How would you feel if you suddenly couldn't use your phone or technology anymore? Do you think there are any benefits to being disconnected?
3. What does Maddie miss most about her family and friends after they're gone? Describe the emotions she's feeling. What do you think you would miss most about your family and friends if you were suddenly separated from them?
4. Why do you think the author chose to tell this story in verse? What did you like most about reading a story in this format? Were there things that were challenging?
5. Why do you think Maddie takes George in, even though it's extra work to find food for him? What do you think humans gain from sharing their lives with cats, dogs, and other animals? Do you have a pet that helps you when times get tough?
6. How are library books valuable to Maddie's survival? Are there any books that have been treasures to you in your life?
7. Throughout the book, Maddie alternates between living at her mom's house and at her dad's. These are the places she called home when her family was with her, but she now says that "Empty houses aren't home." Why don't these houses feel like home to Maddie anymore? What do you think makes a home?
8. How do you think Maddie will feel going from survival to being able to depend on people again?
9. Compare the Maddie at the start of the book to the Maddie at the end. How has she changed? How is she still the same?
10. Have you ever had a birthday you celebrated by yourself without friends or family? How would that make you feel?
11. Did the ending of the book surprise you? Why or why not?
12. Do you think you would survive alone in an abandoned town like Maddison?
13. What are some things you can do to live your life to the fullest and appreciate your surroundings?
14. Do you think people should be given second chances to start over?

Source: <https://www.meganfreeman.com>

# MEDIA REVIEWS

"This exciting story of tenacity, determination, and ingenuity is hard to put down, and thank heavens nothing happens to the dog." - NPR

"The novel is gripping and the plot fast-paced...This is a tense, engrossing survival story on par with classics such as Hatchet." - Booklist

" Suspenseful, fast-paced, and brief enough to engage even reluctant readers." - Kirkus

"A captivating and thrilling survival tale." - NCTE Excellence in Children's Poetry Committee

"Megan E. Freeman has written a lyrically captivating story for our times, reminding us that human resiliency and hope—along with the stories, poems, and imagination we keep alive—can exist even in the midst of trials, trauma, and the act of survival."

- Mary Rand Hess, NYT bestselling author and poet

Source: <https://www.meganfreeman.com>

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Megan E. Freeman attended an elementary school where poets visited her classroom every week to teach poetry, and she has been a writer ever since. She writes middle grade and young adult fiction, and her debut middle-grade novel, *ALONE*, won the Colorado Book Award, the High Plains Book Award, is an NCTE Notable Verse Novel and a Goodreads Choice Award Finalist, and is included on over a dozen "best of" and state reading lists.

Source: <https://www.meganfreeman.com>



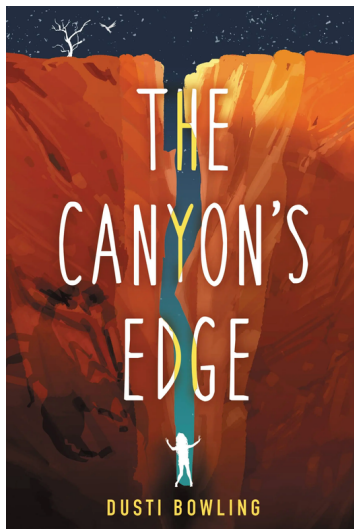
**IF YOU LIKED ALONE,  
CHECK OUT THESE SIMILAR TITLES:**



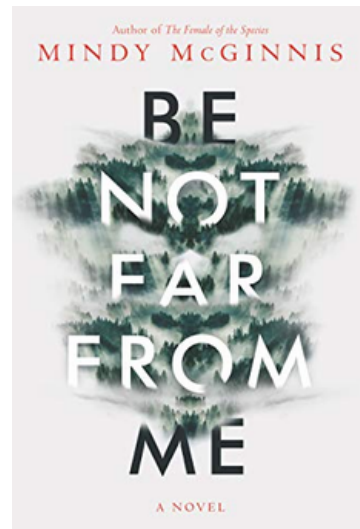
*Northwind*  
by Gary Paulsen



*Across the Desert*  
by Dusti Bowling



*The Canyon's Edge*  
by Dusti Bowling



*Be Not Far from Me*  
by Mindy McGinnis



*Alone in the Woods*  
by Rebecca Behrens



*Running on the Roof  
of the World*  
by Jess Butterworth



*I Am Still Alive*  
by Kate Alice  
Marshall



*Refugee*  
by Alan Gratz

# A L O N E

## ACTIVITY

Prepare for survival! Draw a map of your city or from your imagination. Mark places on your map where you would find important items like: a gas station, grocery stores, lakes, places to find wood, or a library.

What would YOU need to survive?

