Windfall
Jennifer E. Smith

GENRE: Realistic Fiction, Coming of Age, Romance

BOOK SUMMARY
Alice has a high school crush on her best friend, Teddy. Both of them have had their share of bad luck. As a joke, Alice buys Teddy a lottery ticket from a convenience store for his birthday. As luck would have it, Teddy wins the lottery with the ticket that Alice bought him—$140 million.

The two young adults do not share the same opinion on what to do with the winnings, and a rift forms between the two friends. Teddy wants to enjoy the good fortune of having money. He wants to simply have a good time. Alice becomes dismayed in her friend’s attitude about the money and what he is doing with it.

BOOK TALK
Have you ever thought about what you’d do if you won the lottery? Would you help your family? Would you buy yourself something you’ve always wanted? Would you help random strangers? Would you put it away and save it?

In Windfall, Alice does not believe in luck. Her life hasn’t shown her that there is such a thing as luck. Her mother passed away from an illness, and her dad died in a car accident. If it weren’t for bad luck, Alice would have no luck at all. However, she has just turned eighteen and has decided to buy a lottery ticket. Then there’s Teddy, and he too has seen his fair share of bad luck. Teddy’s father was a gambler and left a huge debt for his mom to deal with when he deserted her and Teddy. And finally, there’s Leo with the supportive family. His life hasn’t been as bad as Alice and Teddy’s lives. These three are friends.

Alice decides that she is going to give Teddy a lottery ticket for his birthday as a gag. It turns out that “gag” lottery tickets wins Teddy $140 million. Teddy and his mother have done nothing but struggle with money. So he decides to live in the moment and enjoy the money. Alice is a bit dismayed with the way Teddy is acting with his newfound fortune. The money becomes a sore spot for these two friends.

If you want to find out if the money is the end of the friendship or if they can figure out how to bridge the divide, you will want to check-out and read Windfall by Jennifer E. Smith.

LINKS TO HELPFUL WEBSITES
● Official Book Trailer: https://youtu.be/-2iW-eQnLQ
● Official Website: http://www.jenniferesmith.com/windfall/
● Author: http://www.jenniferesmith.com/about/
● TeachingBooks.net through INSPIRE: www.teachingbooks.net/qla5i8m

MAKERSPACE ACTIVITY
Have your students create a magazine cover about Teddy and his incredible winnings. Have your students create a poster or an application for financial assistance.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
1. What is “luck”? Do you believe in good and bad luck? Explain.
2. How do you think that winning the lottery might change you?
3. If you won the lottery on a ticket that someone bought for you, would you feel obligated to share your winnings with them? Why or why not?

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS BOOK, YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE
- **Realistic Fiction** *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* by J E Smith
- **Realistic Fiction** *This Is What Happy Looks Like* by J E Smith

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