Aphasia Book Club

Life as We Knew It

Chapters 18-19

Worksheet A

1. In Chapter 18, we see Miranda and her family celebrate Christmas by caroling, having a 3-course meal, and giving out gifts (p. 279-285). Do you think is was a good idea for Miranda’s family to celebrate this way when their situation does not seem to be improving? Do you have any holiday traditions you enjoy with your family?
2. Miranda’s neighbor, Mr. Mortensen, comes to their house begging for medicine because his wife is sick (p.290). Miranda’s mom offers to give him some aspirin. Why do you think she does this? Would you have given medicine to a neighbor, or would you have saved it for your own family?
3. When her family gets sick, Miranda goes to the hospital to get help. When she arrives, two nurses tell her that they cannot help her (p.297). Why do they say this? What did the nurses tell Miranda to do? What would you do if you were Miranda?
4. When the woodstove starts to smoke badly in the sunroom, Miranda quickly takes action in order to help save her sick family (p. 301). What are some of the things she does to fix the situation? How do you think Miranda knew what to do? What do you think Miranda was feeling in those moments?
5. Matt gets defeated when he cannot walk all the way upstairs on his own (p.314). Why do you think he gets so upset? Can you think of a time when you’ve experienced something similar?