**Week 8 Chapter Summaries**

Walking In Circles

* Nora is on an island-like rock called Bear Island with the group, including a man named Rune, along with Peter and Ingrid
* Nora is on Polar Bear watch duty
* She is instructed to fire the flare gun to scare them off, or shoot them if necessary
* In her solitude on the island, Nora feels connected to the environment
* She remembers when her mom was in the hospital, and Ash worked there as a general surgeon
* He tells her not to google symptoms because it makes you go crazy
* Nora thinks she sees a polar bear, but it is actually just a walrus
* But then, Nora does indeed see a polar bear in the distance

The Frustration Of Not Finding a Library When You Really Need One

* Nora fires the flare gun, but the polar bear is unaffected
* Nora tries making as much loud noise as she can to scare it away but the bear begins to come in her direction
* She begins screaming for Mrs. Elm to save her and that she wants to go back to the library
* She overcame her fear, and kept banging the pots and pans.
* The bear turns around and goes back into the ocean

Island

* Nora is back with the group on the boat
* She ponders that it is hard to have a sense of vastness inside any one person; once you sense the vastness, you cling to it.

Permafrost

* Global warming occurs at double the rate in Svalbard
* She thinks about her grandfather on her mother’s side, Lorenzo Conte, and how he was born in Italy and moved to England, settling in a town 60 miles north of London
* He marries woman named Patricia Brown, and they had a baby, Nora’s mother Donna
* Donna argued often with her parents, similarly to Nora and her mother
* Nora’s other grandfather on her father’s side, Geoff, lived a life that seemed anything but extraordinary.
* He had been bullied as a child, played football, became a PE teacher
* She realizes maybe that’s what all lives were; perhaps her expectations of life were what made her feel worthless
* She loves her parents more than ever in that moment and forgave them

One Night In Longyearbyen

* They return back to Longyearbyen, the northernmost town in Norway
* In this life Nora realizes she was doing her bit to save the planet
* She gets dinner with Ingred, Peter, and Hugo
* Hugo begins questioning Nora, telling her she is a different person than she was yesterday
* She tries brushing it off, but he then tells her he also has been able to visit lives that aren’t his, and that he’s been in this one for 5 days
* He tells her to meet her somewhere private to discuss further

Expectation

* Nora imagines what it would be like to accept herself completely
* She imagines what it would like to be free