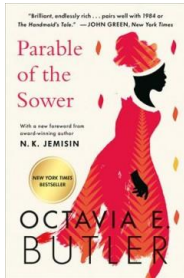




Community Raving About Books (C.R.A.B.) Book Club Guide



***Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler**

Four Walls Eight Windows, 1993; 368 pages/audio 12 hours

“Sustained by skillful characterizations and an all-too-uncomfortable realism, Butler's narrative holds a mirror up close to our own contemporary blight of moral and economic disintegration and implicitly poses the question, Can we really let it get this bad?”

– Booklist, 11/15/1993

Summary

When global climate change and economic crises lead to social chaos in the early 2020s, California becomes full of dangers, from pervasive water shortage to masses of vagabonds who will do anything to live to see another day. Fifteen-year-old Lauren Olamina lives inside a gated community with her preacher father, family, and neighbors, sheltered from the surrounding anarchy. In a society where any vulnerability is a risk, she suffers from hyperempathy, a debilitating sensitivity to others' emotions. Precocious and clear-eyed, Lauren must make her voice heard in order to protect her loved ones from the imminent disasters her small community stubbornly ignores. But what begins as a fight for survival soon leads to something much more: the birth of a new faith . . . and a startling vision of human destiny.

Author Information

Octavia E. Butler was a renowned African American writer who received a MacArthur "Genius" Grant and PEN West Lifetime Achievement Award for her body of work. Her stories range from the distant past to the far future, and sales of her books have increased enormously since her death as the issues she addressed in her Afrofuturistic, feminist novels and short fiction have only become more relevant.

If you liked this book, try these!

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Parable of the Talents by Octavia Butler

The Fifth Season by N. K. Jemisin

Find more title suggestions and author information from our Books and Literature Online

Resources: <https://ww1.pgcmcls.info/website/online-resources-432#BooksandLiterature>

Check out our other C.R.A.B. book club kits at: <https://ww1.pgcmcls.info/website/4558>

See this link for suggested discussion questions:

<https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Parable-of-the-Sower.pdf>