**The Lake Effect**

**By Erin McCahan**

**About the Book**

It’s the summer after senior year, and Briggs Henry is out the door. He's leaving behind his ex-girlfriend and his parents’ money troubles for Lake Michigan and its miles of sandy beaches, working a summer job as a personal assistant, and living in a gorgeous Victorian on the shore. It's the kind of house Briggs plans to buy his parents one day when he’s a multi-millionaire. But then he gets there. And his eighty-four-year-old boss tells him to put on a suit for her funeral.

So begins a summer of social gaffes, stomach cramps, fraught beach volleyball games, moonlit epiphanies, and a drawer full of funeral programs. Add to this Abigail, the mystifying girl next door on whom Briggs's charms just won’t work, and “the lake effect” is taking on a whole new meaning.

**About the Author**

I write books, hang out with friends, take long walks with my husband, cater to my cats, ignore my phone when it rings (too much anxiety) and absolutely have to talk during television shows and movies. Also, I bump into things -- big things, stationary things like walls and furniture -- all the time, and, yes, it hurts. I say it's because I walk fast. My husband says it's because I'm clumsy.

LOVE AND OTHER FOREIGN WORDS is my second novel, which was optioned by Warner Bros., and is being published in 12 languages. Also, it was named one of the Best Summer Books, 2014, by Publishers Weekly and is a Junior Library Guild selection.

**If you enjoyed this book*:***

* Words in Deep Blue by Cath Crowley
* Love and Other Foreign Words by Erin McCahan
* Perennials by Mandy Berman
* Secrets in Summer by Nancy Thayer
* What to Say Next by Julie Buxbaum

**Discussion Questions**

1. What did you like about the book? Dislike?
2. Discuss the different characters in the book. Who was your favorite? Least favorite? Explain why.
3. Briggs’ dad has many sayings that he likes to use. What was one that stood out to you he most? Do you think these sayings are accurate?
4. Briggs has a detailed plan for the future. Discuss how he handles it when things don’t go according to that plan. What about other characters’ views on the future? (Mrs. B, Abigail, Dum)
5. Talk about Briggs’ relationship with his Grandma Ruth. How do you relate to grandparents/grandchildren?
6. Were you surprised when the reason for Abigail’s hospital visit was revealed? Talk about her struggle with Crohn’s disease and how it affected her opinion on futures.
7. Mrs. B likes to crash funerals so she can figure out how she wants hers to be. What did you think of this tactic? Do you agree with her that the families won’t mind?
8. How did all of the funerals Briggs went to compare to his own grandmother’s funeral? Do you think those experiences changed how he grieved for her?
9. At the end of the book, Mr. Henry (the father) didn’t seem to have changed very much. Were you hoping he would? Do you think he will?
10. If you could ask the author anything, what would it be?