## Synchro Boy – Shannon McFerran

## Chapter Discussion Questions

**Chapter One**

What is Bart’s view of himself as his stands on the bulkhead at the opening of the novel? How does his self-regard present a conflict to be explored in the story?

How is the setting introduced in the novel? How does it provide a stage for the story conflict?

Do you think Bart’s suspension is justified? Why or why not? If you think it wasn’t, how do you think his coach should have handled the conflict?

Geoff calls synchro swimming “water ballet.” Why?

**Chapter Two**

Have you had an experience of trying an activity that takes you back to a younger time, like Bart did while he swam under water? If so, how did you react? How did it make you feel? If not, what do you think would give you the experience of feeling like you did when you were little? Do you think that would affect how creative you feel now?

Where do you still see sports designated as being specific to one gender? What do you think is happening to competitive sports as more gender diverse athletes join?

**Chapter Three**

What can you tell about Bart’s experience of high school?

How does Bart react to Riley’s attempt to stand up for him while Bart was trying synchro? Do you think Bart is fair in his response?

**Chapter Four**

How is Bart’s middle school experience similar or different from your own?

What problems did joining swimming solve for Bart at the time? Is it still working? Why or why not?

Bart recalls a transition point in his past that pushed him to give up something he loved so that he could move on. Do you think you would have made a similar choice? What do you think the decision cost Bart socially/emotionally, and developmentally?

What sort of character was Bart as an eleven year old? What sort of character is he now in the novel? Point to specific examples to support your view.

**Chapter Five**

What is Bart’s relationship with his best friend like? Cite specific evidence from the text so far to support your description.

Why do you think Bart likens Erika’s swimming to an ice dancer? What do you think might be significant about that comparison from Bart’s point of view as a boy?

What conflicts are established in the novel’s present time so far? Think about internal and external conflicts.

**(Chapter Discussion Questions for the remainder of the book coming soon!)**