

MORSELS FOR THE MIND BOOK GROUP

Date: August 24, 2015

Hostess: Nancy McQuate

Book Title:

Behind The Beautiful Forevers

Author:

Katherine Boo

Book Synopsis:

With intelligence, humor, and deep insight into what connects human beings to one another in an era of tumultuous change, Boo's book carries the reader into one of the twenty-first century's hidden worlds. Annawadi is a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport. Even the poorest Annawadians believe themselves, even in the middle of scrap collecting, that they are inching closer to "the full enjoy".

Our Review: We found the book very moving and intelligently written. It is very easy to say that reading this book was a very depressing experience and might have set it down if it hadn't been chosen for book group. Most felt they were glad to have read it. Deep respect was given the author for undertaking the task of writing such a book and her current endeavors to help this community through monetary donations, time, and education.

Food Served:

Tomato Chutney, Crispy Vegetable Pakoras, Naan, Kohinoor (Mumbai Pav Bhaji Vegetable Curry), pistachio pesto, Edame Lentil Chips, and Peaches and Cream Pie!

Highlights of Discussion:

Slideshow to get a visual of the conditions of Annawadi.

The corruption from the government, police, and even between neighbors. On the hierarchy of needs they are at the survival level.

The suicide rate via rat poison and burning, the hospital conditions, and the recycling as there main activity and source of survival. We also discussed how the world market can affect this menial source of income. Not clear yet what the future holds for Annawadians.

Attendance:

Nancy M, Nancy D, Nancy S, Laura, Mary, Sandy, Ginny, and Julie,

Business/Suggestions:

Will discuss a date to visit Art Prize at next meeting

Date for October meeting was changed to October 26 at Nancy D's.