***The Firefly Code***

By Megan Frazer Blakemore

### **Annotation:**

Up until a new girl, Ilana, moves to Firefly Lane, Mori and her friends lived a normal life. They never questioned anything in Old Harmonie, their utopian community. Questions arise about the new girl. Where Ilana says she comes from doesn’t add up and her behavior is strange. Once they discover the truth they must make tough decisions about their seemingly perfect world.

**Book Talk:**

If you enjoy a dystopian book with a mysterious twist, The Firefly Code is the book for you! Five friends discover a secret about their seemingly perfect community. They set out on an adventure to uncover more of the hidden truths. The Firefly Code will the book you just can’t put down.

**Book Trailers:**

* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Du4PCSPcCoA

### **Author on the Internet:**

* Website: http://www.meganfrazer.com
* Twitter: [**@**meganbfrazer](https://twitter.com/meganbfrazer)
* Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MeganFrazerBlakemore/

### Items to use in a library d**isplay**:

* Double Helix
* Minature Trees/Tree figurines
* Nature items/Plants
* Bees
* Robots

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics:**

* In the Firefly Code, the community either dampens or enhances certain traits in children. What are the ethical reprecussions of this system?
* When the friends discover there is something different about Ilana, they decide to isolate her. What connections can you make in your world about this event?
* The community values creativity, ingenuity, experimentation and order. Mori also states kindness is important because “What did all the others matter...if you weren’t willing to help a friend who needed it?” Do you agree or disagree?

**First Line of the Book:**

* “Everyone goes to sleep at the same time on Firefly Lane.”

**Non-Fiction Companion Title(s):**

# *Robotics: DISCOVER THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE FUTURE with 20 PROJECTS (Build It Yourself)* by Sam Carbaugh

# *National Geographic Kids Everything Robotics: All the Photos, Facts, and Fun to Make You Race for Robots* by Jennifer Swanson

**What to Read Next:**

* *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
* *Under Their Skin* byMargeret Peterson Haddix
* *Matched* by Ally Condie
* *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld

Other Books by this Author:

* *The Daybreak Bond-Sequel to The Firefly Code*
* *The Water Castle*
* *The Spy Catchers of Maple Hill*
* *The Friendship Riddle*

**Additional R**esources:

* Art/craft activity: Students create a double helix out of straws and marshmellows
* Reader’s Theater script: None available as of March 2018
* Interview with the author: None available as of March 2018
* Book Study: None available as of March 2018
* Lesson ideas: Allow students to choose their own latancy and discuss why they decided the one they chose would be best.

**Name that Book:**

* “I know that beyond this fence is another world, one teeming and confused.” I know this from what I have learned in school and from what our parents say and from the pictures on the news that they try to shield us from. But behind this fence, it seems impossible that we could be anything but safe.” (Page 2)HB

* “A retina is a tiny thing, obviously not a huge portion of my body by mass or area or volume or any of those measurements. But its complexity and its necessity—that’s what makes it count more in my allotment.” (Page 32)HB

* “The woods weren’t strictly off-limits, but not many people ventured into them. We didn’t have to go very far before it felt like a new world.” (Page 72)HB

* “The robot bee stopped humming and seemed to shut itself off as it perched on my shoulder, but I could still feel its tiny legs pinching onto my shirt.” (Page 198)HB

* “ ‘Creativity, ingenuity, experimentation, and order are essential, but the founders left out Community. Community is what we are. Community is how we function. Community is how we survive. And so we made the choice to save our friend. We hope you understand.’ “ (Page 334)HB