**Discussion Questions for *Fire in the Canyon*, by Daniel Grumbiner**

1. We just read Wallace Stegner’s book, Angle of Repose. Daniel Gumbiner has been compared to Stegner, as well as Steinbeck. Stegner wrote “the beautiful land “imposes itself” on them, and “sets the rules for their existence”.” Did you feel this was true in Fire in the Canyon? How would you compare Gumbiner to Stegner and Steinbeck?
2. One reviewer said that “reading Fire in the Canyon was like reading a new, modern American classic. It’s a story that feels real. Real characters, real towns, real issues.” Did it feel real to you?
3. This is a book about climate change and its emotional and financial costs. What was its effect on Ben, Ada and Yoel? Were its effects all bad?
4. The fire destroys Ada’s latest manuscript and threatens to burn up Ben’s second chance at a vocation. But it also gives him a second chance with Yoel. How does the fire act as a catalyst? How is the farm their crucible?
5. Fire in the Canyon illustrates the importance of family and community. How did community play a role in healing the Hecht family?
6. Gumbiner has said that this novel grew, in part, out of an interest in winemaking. He struck up conversations with various vintners – and kept coming back to one friend who had survived a large wildfire. The seeds of the book became the way that fire could change the trajectory of a community or an individual’s life. Did you think that winemaking figured prominently in this novel?
7. What did you think of Yoel’s activism? Was it effective? Did you find it believable?
8. Climate Fiction (“cli-fi”) is a genre which deals with the impact of climate change on the earth and on society. Cli-fi might seem like a bummer to read given how close to reality some of it might feel, but it can be a compelling way to engage with issues that are fundamental to life on earth now and in the future. How effective do you think this genre can be in drawing attention to the potential effects of climate change? Did you feel like you were reading about climate change as you read this book?
9. What did you think of the ending? Gumbiner says he wrote the end of the book in one sitting. Did you feel it was too abrupt?