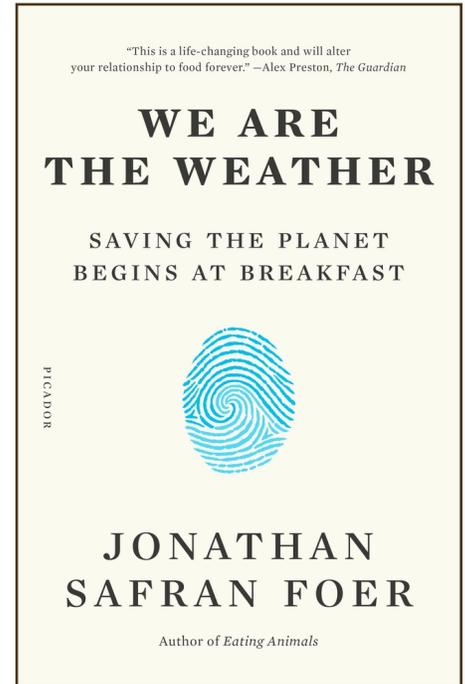


PICADOR / FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX
Reading Group Gold

*We Are the Weather:
Saving the Planet
Begins at Breakfast*
by Jonathan Safran Foer



ISBN: 9781250757975 / 288 pages

In *We Are the Weather*, *New York Times* bestselling author Jonathan Safran Foer explores the central global dilemma of our time in a surprising, deeply personal, and urgent new way.

Some people reject the fact, overwhelmingly supported by scientists, that our planet is warming because of human activity. But do those of us who accept the reality of human-caused climate change truly believe it? If we did, surely we would be roused to act on what we know. Will future generations distinguish between those who didn't believe in the science of global warming and those who said they accepted the science but failed to change their lives in response?

The task of saving the planet will involve a great reckoning with ourselves—with our all-too-human reluctance to sacrifice immediate comfort for the sake of the future. We have, he reveals, turned our planet into a farm for growing animal products, and the consequences are catastrophic. Only collective action will save our home and way of life. And it all starts with what we eat—and don't eat—for breakfast.

Reading Group Gold

QUESTIONS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Who should take responsibility for the environmental effects of the food industry? Corporations producing? Consumers buying? Certain groups more than others?
2. What power and control do we gain by taking responsibility for the environmental effects of the products we purchase? How is taking on this responsibility a burden? How is it liberating?
3. How does the lack of a clear "good vs. evil" narrative contribute to climate change apathy? How do you combat this apathy? What makes climate change such a hard issue to motivate around?
4. What are the differences between knowing something and believing it? Is one a better motivator than the other? How do we best turn information into action?
5. Compare the effectiveness of certain economic incentives and appeals to emotion as motivators to address climate injustices. Do certain motivational strategies work better for different groups (i.e. corporations versus individuals)?
6. Is collective action just the sum of individual actions? What is the bridge between the two? Is any action truly individual?
7. From "How to Prevent the Greatest Dying," what facts surprised or stuck with you? What did you already know? How did these new facts change your understanding?
8. What doubts about the necessity of personal change to address climate change persist? How can we take facts to heart and use them to dispel our skepticism?
9. What are the differences between climate science deniers and climate science believers when there is still individual inaction from both parties? What are the dangers of parading climate concerns as a cause without personal action?
10. Are there consequences to the pursuit of the traditional "American Dream"? As we move forward to combat climate change, which "American Dream" ideals should we leave behind? Which should we bring with us?
11. How is hope useful and how is it dangerous? Are there situations where we rely solely on hope to avoid taking responsibility and action?
12. What would be your fundamental reason for committing to a plant-based diet? Is it based on morals? Logic? Personal reasons? What excuses do you make to circumvent these reasons?
13. How is climate change a distant issue (geographically and temporally)? How is climate change an immediate issue? What connects these two worlds?

Written by Benjamin Croze