Tutor Book Recommendation: *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver

There are so many reasons to read books by author Barbara Kingsolver, but her latest book, *Unsheltered*, is a phenomenal read. The author showcases two different families (and their relationships) who live in the same house, but in different centuries. The families’ financial struggles and problems were the source of much angst and uncertainty.

Each chapter alternates between the times, 1870-ish and present day. Within each time period, the author artfully weaves the characteristic language of the times with scientific, social, political and cultural issues of the day. The characters have distinctive personalities and colorful characteristics with strengths, weaknesses and language patterns that conjure their images as if they would be real, identifiable and very much alive. The chapter-stories flow with time and change- a positive arc of hope and survival. Although *Unsheltered* is a work of fiction, there are non-fictional tidbits of science, history, biology and botany woven throughout that cement the stories into a local historical retrospective and a present day “Ah hah! So that's it!"

Kingsolver's book drew me into the wonder of how such an amazing story can be written with such amazing creativity. She is a genuine wordsmith; her words and word combinations, thoughts and expressions are relatable, relevant, enchanting, and extraordinary. Like with all her works, this one sparkled with emotion, angst, curiosity, growth, change, hope, love and relief. What a great book!

**If you have a book review that you'd like to share with our Reading Connections' community, please submit it to****info@readingconnections.org****.**