



## **IAM READERS GUILD**

### Discussion Guide

#### ***Blankets by Craig Thompson***

February 2011

1. Was this your first graphic novel? If so, did you enjoy reading a work of this nature?
2. How did the illustrations affect your reading of *Blankets*? Did the imagery Thompson seem appropriate? Would you have imagined it otherwise?
3. As compares with most graphic novels, *Blankets* had a very simple plot; on the whole, it was more of a narration of an emotional experience than a telling of events. Were you surprised to find yourself captivated/disinterested due to the length?
4. Discuss the character arc that Craig and Raina undergo over the course of *Blankets*.
5. How did Thompson's relationship with Phil and his parents affect his attitude towards his own doubt? What are your feelings about Craig's perception of reality?
6. At the end of the novel, Craig and Phil discuss the capacity to recall and trust an experience because it was shared with others. Elaborate on that. Memories of childhood, first love, artistic experience?
7. At the end of the work, Thompson writes, "how satisfying it is to leave a mark on a blank surface." How does this statement seem to inform his art making. Discuss Thompson's form—specifically his line work.

The questions below are merely prompts to get your discussion going. Keep a brief record of the most interesting ideas that come up during your discussion, and after the meeting, send us a summary (around a paragraph long) to post to the Readers Guild blog! (Email your summary to [readersguild@internationalartsmovement.org](mailto:readersguild@internationalartsmovement.org)).