



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Guide

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

1. Why do you think Kya's mother leaves in the beginning? Do you agree with her decision?
2. The North Carolina marsh where Kya lives has long been a sanctuary for outsiders. How does growing up in this isolation affect Kya? In what ways does her status as an "outsider" change how others see her?
3. After Jodie and Pa leave Kya alone, she becomes close to Jumpin' and Mabel. Why are these two adults drawn to Kya? What do they teach her about the world?
4. How is womanhood explored throughout the novel? What does being a woman mean to Kya? How does she relate to the other women in Barkley Cove?
5. Discuss Kya's relationship with Tate. How does Tate's understanding of Kya change over time? Is Tate a good partner for Kya? Why or why not?
6. On page 142, Kya watches the fireflies near her shack, and notices that the females can change their flashes to signal different things. What does this realization mean to Kya? What does it teach her about relationships? How does this lesson influence Kya's decisions in the second half of the novel?
7. Were you surprised by the verdict in the Chase's murder trial? What about the ending of the novel? Do you agree with Tate's final decision? Why or why not?
8. Is Chase a different kind of man than Tate? How are they different? Is one man better? Do you think that their differences are biological or learned? How does Kya see each man?
9. Discuss how Kya's observations of nature shape her vision of the world. Do you think these lessons adequately prepare her for life in Barkley Cove? Do you think human society follows the same rules as the natural world? Should it? Why or why not?

The above questions were taken from <https://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/fiction/11329-where-crawdads-sing-owens?start=3> to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Delia Owens was born in southern Georgia. Owens pursued a career in science and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from the University of Georgia and a Ph.D. in Animal Behavior from the University of California. For two decades, she lived in Africa; she published articles on her research and conservation work. She now resides in Idaho and plans to continue writing fiction.

<https://www.deliaowens.com/about-the-author>

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