



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Indians on Vacation by Thomas King

1. For Mimi, travel is a way to explore or escape, while Bird seems worn out during the entire trip. In what way do you think their different perspectives affect their shared travel experiences? Whose approach to travel do you most identify with?
2. When you read books that explore different locales, do you look up the areas to have a better visual picture when reading the story? Did you look up any pictures for this book?
3. Are there any points in the novel that caused you to question how the tourism industry operates? How do you feel about travelling to countries experiencing crisis?
4. What did the introduction of the demons add to the story? Was it significant that Mimi, not Bird, named his demons? Did you have a favorite demon?
5. The character Oz is always there to greet Bird, but never gets to meet Mimi. Do you think Mimi believes that Oz could be another one of Bird's demons?
6. What did the quest for the medicine bundle add to the book?
7. How do you feel about the way systemic racism was addressed in this book?
8. A recent review described Bird and Mimi as “two youngish seniors” who have a shared history and are not immune to hurt feelings. How would you characterize their relationship?
9. Bird is feeling dissatisfied with his professional contributions to the world. How is that impacting his overall wellbeing?

These questions were developed by library staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Thomas King is one of Canada's premier Native public intellectuals. King was the first Aboriginal person to deliver the prestigious Massey Lectures, and is also the bestselling, award-winning author of six novels, two collections of short stories and two nonfiction books. He won the 2014 Governor General's Award for Literature for his most recent novel, *The Back of the Turtle*. He is a recipient of the Order of Canada. He lives in Guelph, ON. – *from Penguin Random House Canada*

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