



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Moon of the Turning Leaves by Waubgeshig Rice

1. The novel has been described as dystopian, as a story of a functional Indigenous community that becomes invigorated and strengthened by the collapse of a surrounding colonizing system. Would you describe the novel as dystopian or something different?
2. The citizens of this First Nations reservation have fully returned to the land, reclaiming Indigenous ways of life and embracing ancestral connections that colonization attempts to eradicate. In the novel, it took a complete breakdown in existing systems to force the people toward this to survive. Do you think any degree of this could still occur without surrounding societal collapse? Do you already see it happening?
3. The novel features white antagonists, like the organized white supremacists. But there is also a white woman who becomes part of the Indigenous community. Do you see there being any paths to peaceful coexistence and support between the remnants of white society and the growing Indigenous community of the novel?
4. Most of the novel involves a group traveling southward to assess the feasibility of returning to lands whence their ancestors were forcibly removed. Discuss the diversity amongst that group (expertise, age, gender, etc.), Why do you think the author composed the walking party with those characters?
5. The author integrates Anishinaabemowin in the novel, both from characters who are relatively fluent and those who only know a few words or phrases. As a reader, how impactful did you find this use of language?
6. Discuss the novel's lack of explanation for how society collapsed. Were there clues to draw from to explain this collapse, and what conclusions did you arrive at?
7. Do you feel like the story is resolved at the end? If not, what would you like to read in a next book?

The above questions were taken from
<https://skiffyandfantasy.com/blog/interview-waubgeshig-rice-moon-of-the-turning-leaves/>
to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Waubgeshig Rice is an author and journalist from Wasauksing First Nation. He has written four books, most notably the bestselling novel *Moon of the Crusted Snow*, published in 2018. Rice graduated from the journalism program at Toronto Metropolitan University in 2002 and spent most of his journalism career with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as a video journalist and radio host. In addition to his writing endeavours, Rice is a public speaker, delivering keynote addresses and workshops, engaging in interviews, and contributing to various panels at literary festivals and conferences. He speaks on creative writing and oral storytelling, contemporary Anishinaabe culture and matters, Indigenous representation in arts and media, and more.

Author Website: <https://waub.ca>

Book Club in a Bag Terms of Use

Simplify your book club selection with Book Club in a Bag! Visit our website at www.cplma.ca/bookclubinabag to see a list of available titles, view the availability calendar, and submit a request.

Booking a Kit

- Booking may be made up to a year in advance.
- Please check the calendar accessible on our website for availability.
- Fill out the form with your information, and a staff member will be in touch to confirm your booking.
- Pick up your hold at the service desk. Your notification may come in a few days early, but it will remain available until your specified pick-up date.

Terms of Loan

- 12 copies are included in each kit.
- 6-week loan period.
- No renewals.
- Kit may be picked up at or returned to any CLMA library location.
- Kit must be returned at the service desk during operating hours, not through an exterior drop box.
- All items are checked out to one person's card.
- The person who borrowed the kit is responsible for:
 - The distribution and return of all items to their group members; and
 - Any damages to the books/bag, or lost items.
 - The cost of a damaged or lost book varies depending on the item.