



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Woo-Woo by Lindsay Wong

1. *The Woo-Woo* explores Wong's childhood and illustrates how family shapes people. Discuss the challenges Wong faced growing up and how they have affected her as a person.
2. Wong is very cognizant of the woo-woo despite her efforts to leave the superstition behind. Discuss the impact the woo-woo has in Wong's life and her family's struggles with mental illness.
3. The CBC quotes Wong in saying, "I hope everyone can relate to this idea that mental illness is not shameful or taboo or a stigma, especially Chinese Canadians" (January 31, 2019). How has society's perception of mental illness changed, or not changed. Do you think works of art can help break down societal stigmas?
4. Migration and travel are important themes in the book. How has growing up in this transnational city shaped the way she saw the world? Discuss Wong's use of the term "Hongcover" and the creation of terms to define a new sense of identity.
5. Describe the family dynamics in Lindsay Wong's family. How were the relationships between her Mother, Father, and her Grandmother? Discuss the influence these relationships had on Wong's life.
6. The CBC describes *The Woo-Woo* as a darkly comedic memoir. Discuss how Wong uses comedy to tell her story.
7. Discuss the symbolism of the cover art.
8. Is there a specific scene in *The Woo-Woo* that has stayed with you? What will you remember most about this history?

The above questions were taken written by Clarington Public Library staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

<https://quillandquire.com/review/the-woo-woo-how-i-survived-ice-hockey-drug-raids-demons-and-my-crazy-chinese-family/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/books/the-woo-woo-by-lindsay-wong-1.4759689>

Author Biography

Lindsay Wong is a Canadian author. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Fine Arts in Literary Nonfiction from Columbia University. *The Woo-Woo* is her debut memoir.

<https://lindsaymwong.wordpress.com/>

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