



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Five Little Indians by Michelle Good

1. This novel is an intense depiction of how life unfolds for five likeable young people once they're out of residential school. Were you surprised at the challenges they faced in their lives?
2. While the author makes it clear these five young people suffered horrors during their years at an "Indian school" she doesn't dwell on that. Instead, she follows their individual and interwoven lives after they were released – or escaped – from the school in the 1970s. Why might the author have chosen to tell the story this way?
3. The braided stories of the five, whose lives connect and disconnect over the decades, help us see why they, striving to survive in a world for which they are woefully unprepared, make the choices they do. Do you think in our own daily lives, we are often unprepared to make difficult life choices?
4. Quote from the author: "I just hope that people choose to broaden their horizons, to broaden their understandings of things, and that hopefully this book will help with that." Did this novel accomplish what the author hoped to achieve?
5. What have you learned about Residential Schools after reading this novel? Has the novel changed you – broadened your perspective?
6. During an interview, the author muses that when people don't share sorrow, it can drive them apart. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? Can you think of any examples?

The above questions were developed by library staff for your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Michelle Good is a Cree writer and a member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. After working for Indigenous organizations for twenty-five years she obtained a law degree and advocated for residential school survivors for over fourteen years. Good earned a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia while still practising and managing her own law firm. Her poems, short stories, and essays have been published in magazines and anthologies across Canada, and her poetry was included on two lists of the best Canadian poetry in 2016 and 2017. *Five Little Indians*, her first novel, won the HarperCollins/UBC Best New Fiction Prize.

From HarperCollins Canada: <https://www.harpercollins.ca/9781443459181/five-little-indians/>.

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