

WISHING SEASON

Discussion Questions (provided by Ania Mrose Rissi!)

1. I often describe this novel as “a love letter to the place where I grew up.” The Deer Isle, Maine setting is an important part of Lily’s story—and Lily considers Deer Isle an important part of who she is. In Chapter 5, the text says, “the salt-pine-granite air and the field, pond, ocean, and woods were as much a part of who she was as her kidneys, opinions, and dreams.” What sights, sounds, smells, and other details from the natural world did you notice in this story? How does spending time outside help Lily heal, process her big emotions, and feel closer to Anders?

2. What are the sights, sounds, and smells that remind you of home? In what ways are you shaped by the place where you live? What’s special to you about your pocket of Maine?

3. At the end of Chapter 8, when Mrs. Turner thanks Lily for feeding the chickens, Lily replies, “I don’t mind. Neighbors helping neighbors.” She’s echoing what a neighbor said to Lily’s mom when she thanked him for mowing their lawn. What other examples of neighbors helping neighbors can you find in *Wishing Season*? How does helping out her neighbors help Lily deal with her own grief?

“This book is a testament to familial and community love—to the indelible marks we leave on one another and the strength we carry together.”

Recommending author
SAMARA COLE DOYON

4. What are some examples of neighbors helping neighbors in your community?

5. In Chapter 37, when Lily tells Quinn about what happened between her and Deandra, Quinn tells Lily it’s okay to step back from a friendship that isn’t working for her. She also says, “Sometimes friendships have seasons, or come in and out like the tides.” What do you think of Quinn’s advice, and of Lily’s decision not to go back to being “real friends” with Deandra? How does Lily’s understanding of true friendship shift over the course of the summer?

6. What do you hope and predict for Lily in the year ahead? If she asked for your advice about friendships, what would you tell her?