

Watershed by Doreen Vanderstoop

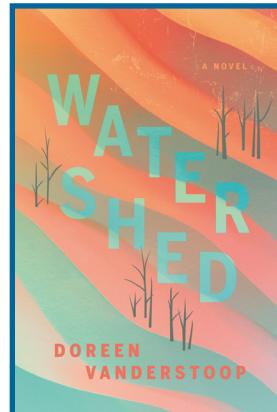
Book Club Discussion Questions

1. What made the setting in *Watershed* unique or important? Could the story have taken place anywhere?
2. What feelings did *Watershed* evoke for you?
3. How are Willa and Daniel similar? How are they different? How are those similarities and differences accentuated as the story evolves?
4. Did your opinion of Willa and/or Daniel change as the story progressed?
5. Willa has strong ties to her ancestral land. When have you felt the same fierce connection to where you live or have lived?
6. Is Willa ultimately more like her father or her mother? Why?
7. Is Daniel ultimately more like Willa, Calvin or his Opa? Why?
8. Do you think Willa and Calvin have a strong relationship? Why or why not?
9. Do you think the environmental scenarios in the book are plausible? What comment is the author making about the environment?
10. *Watershed* explores the notion of the commodification of water. Should water be considered a commodity or a basic human right?
11. What parallels do you see between the events in *Watershed* and recent events in current times? Could the dystopian elements in *Watershed* represent our future?
12. How do Willa's hallucinations affect how she views and feels about the world around her?
13. Familial fractures are dominant in *Watershed*. Are these fractures more the result of the secrets the characters keep or the stress each family member is under?
14. What themes did you detect in the story? Which of these resonated with you the most?
15. How does book's title relate to the story?
16. How does the book's cover convey what the novel is about?
17. Reflecting on the ending, what do you think of Willa's decision? What might you do in a similar situation?
18. Is there hope at the end of this dystopian story? If so, where does it reside?
19. Did *Watershed* change your opinion or perspective about anything?



DOREEN VANDERSTOOP
is a Calgary-based writer, storyteller and musician. As a storyteller/musician, Doreen performs for audiences of all ages at schools, libraries, festivals, conferences and more. She leads workshops to ignite in others a passion for the power of story – oral and written. *Watershed* is Doreen's debut novel.

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