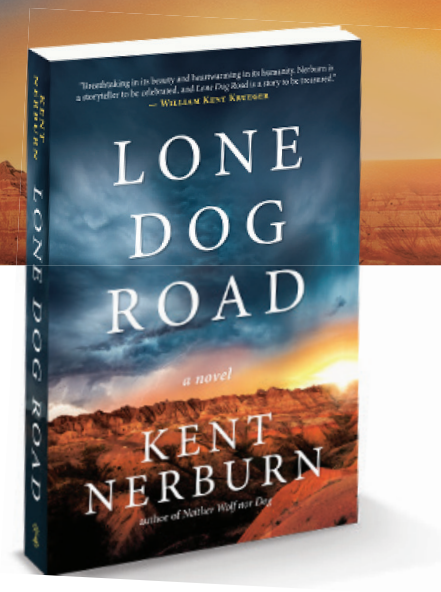
LONE DOG ROAD

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. Why do you think grandpa Amos Lone Dog never steps to the front and speaks directly as one of the narrative voices, but instead is heard indirectly through the voices of the other characters?

2. What are your thoughts on the different ways Karl-Martin and Lillie deal with the death of their son?

3. What did you learn about Lakota culture and values that surprised you?

4. The Indian boarding schools form the shadow presence behind the plot of the book. Did you know anything about the Indian boarding schools before you read this book? Does it make you curious to learn more?

5. *Lone Dog Road* has been called by various readers a story of outsiders, a story of redemption, a story of healing from brokenness, a spiritual mystery, and a theological novel. How would you characterize it?

6. Why do you think the author chose to write the book through first person voices rather than from the point of view of one character or a third-person narrator? Do you think it was an effective literary technique?

7. Lillie and Ree have different approaches to the difficult task of motherhood. What are your thoughts on this. And what do you think of the idea posed by some readers that Ida was the wisest mother of all?

8. What did you think of Karl-Martin's crisis of faith? Could you relate to it?

9. Do you think that a white male author has the right to write from within the points of view of people of different genders and races?

10. Did you have a favorite character? A character who frustrated you?

11. The land is always a primary character in Kent Nerburn's books. Did you sense this in *Lone Dog Road*? If so, where did you feel it most acutely?

12. Levi constantly refers to Reuben as "other-minded". What do you think this means, and is it best understood from a medical, psychological, or spiritual point of view? Have you known children like this?

13. Old Amos Lone Dog is constantly making observations about the people and world around him. Did any of his observations surprise you or seem especially insightful or wrong-headed?

14. The book intimates that there is an underlying purpose or meaning to seemingly disconnected events. Do you share this belief?