



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Greenwood by Michael Christie

1. At its heart, *Greenwood* is a family saga. How did the boyhoods of brothers Everett and Harris make them into the men they became? How do you think Willow's nomadic life affected her son Liam? How did Jake's orphaning influence the person she became?
2. The word "roots" has many meanings in *Greenwood*—a tree's stability, a family's ancestry, a person's connection to place. Which meaning resonated most with you and why?
3. "The best sacrifices, Willow knows, are always made in solitude, with not a camera in sight." Characters make many sacrifices in *Greenwood*—Everett for his brother during the war, Temple for the downtrodden, Feeney out of love for his principles. What other sacrifices did you notice in the novel? Which character's sacrifice moved you most and why?
4. The Great Withering began with the trees—"the wave of fungal blights and insect infestations, to which old growth was particularly defenseless." What environmental stresses do you see in your life today? How do you personally address these issues?
5. How did you feel about Meena's reaction to Liam's painstakingly created gift, a homemade viola that replicated the Stradivarius Meena so loved? Were her actions necessary? Cruel? What did her reaction say about their relationship?
6. What do you think of Jake's final actions at the end of the book? Did she make the right decisions? How would you have handled the revelations?
7. Why do you think author Michael Christie chose to write the centre section—1908—in the voice of a Greek chorus of townspeople? How does this perspective enhance our understanding of the Greenwood boys' upbringing?
8. *Greenwood* is part of a new genre of novels known as CliFi (climate fiction). What makes it fall under that category? Do any of the novel's environmental themes resonate with you?

The above questions were taken from <https://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/fiction/11584-greenwood-christie?start=3> for your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Michael Christie is a Canadian novelist and short story writer. He was born and raised in Thunder Bay, Ontario, later moving to San Francisco and traveling the world as a professional skateboarder. Eventually, Christie landed in Vancouver, British Columbia, where he studied psychology at Simon Fraser University. After earning his degree, he spent several years working in social services. Today, Christie divides his time between Victoria, BC's capital, located on Vancouver Island, and Galiano Island, some two hours north, where he lives with his wife and two sons.

<https://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/fiction/11584-greenwood-christie?start=1>.

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