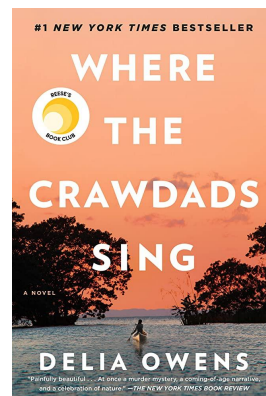


Discussion Questions

Where the Crawdads Sing

Delia Owens



1. The North Carolina marsh where Kya lives has long been a sanctuary for outsiders. How does this setting shape the novel? How does growing up in this isolation affect Kya?
2. Why do you think Kya's mother leaves in the beginning? Do you agree with her decision?
3. How realistic is Kya's upbringing in the marsh? Do you believe she really could have made it out there on her own?
4. Why does Kya choose not to go back to school? Do you think she makes the wrong decision? How does Kya's lack of formal education shape her vision of the world? Would her character be different if she had gone to school?
5. Tate's father tells him that poems are important because "they make ya feel something." What does poetry mean to Tate? What does it mean to Kya?
6. Kya learns about human nature and how to relate to other people mostly through observing animals. Most notably, Kya observes female fireflies changing their flashes to communicate different things. How does this observation affect Kya's relationship with others?
7. Is Chase a different kind of man than Tate? How are they different? Is one man better? Do you think that their differences are biological or learned? How does Kya see each man?
8. Discuss how Kya's observations of nature shape her vision of the world. Do you think these lessons adequately prepare for life in Barkley Cove? Do you think human society follows the same rules as the natural world? Should it? Why or why not?
9. At the end of the novel, Kya thinks "most of what she knew, she'd learned from the wild. Nature had nurtured, tutored, and protected her when no one else would." What does she mean? Do you agree with her philosophy? What do you think it means to be a good person?
10. Were you surprised by the verdict in Chase's murder trial? What about by the end of the novel? Do you agree with Tate's final decision? Why or why not?