

Book Club Questions: *The Death of Annie the Water Witcher by Lightning*

1. This novel is told from the first person point-of-view of eight different narrators. What difference did the structure make in the way you read or understood the book?
2. Alberta was a leader in the Eugenics movement in the early 20th century. The Provincial Training School for the Mental Defectives turned into Michener Centre in the 1970s. What do you think about Alberta's complicated history with Eugenics, how much did you know about this history, and how does that history affect your reading of the book?
3. There is much discussion in this book about a changing way of life in rural areas, from crime rates to farming practices. What surprised you the most about these changes? Different characters had different responses to these changes. Whose perspective did you most identify with?
4. Who is your favourite character and why are you drawn to them? Is there a character you don't like and do they have redeeming qualities?
5. Does Majestic itself feel like its own character? Why or why not?
6. Annie has overcome a life of hardships. How does she survive? How does she eventually heal? Does she experience stigma regarding different aspects of her life: alcoholism, water divining, her acting as a female healer, etc.?
7. Annie frequently refers to the la fève (broad bean)? What meaning did la fève have for Annie? For her mother?
8. Magpies show up more than once in the story. What is their meaning for you? What is their meaning in this novel?
9. After Annie's death, her friends sense her presence in the water. What meanings does water have in the book? What meaning does it have for you?
10. What do you think of Jack's statement: "I know we're capable of loving many people in a lifetime?" Do you agree or disagree? How has this been true for you? Or not? How does his belief reflect the way his character reacts to Annie's death?
11. If you were to write the epilogue, how do you think things would turn out for Kristian and Kelsey? Jack? Alex? Mike and Vera? Buster and Daisy? Father Pat? The Bishop? Bob and his roses? For the town and church at Majestic? For Annie's memory?