



Jodi Picoult

Book club discussion questions

Lone Wolf

1. We find out several things about Luke in the Prologue. What characteristics are apparent when he's a young boy that are also quite obvious when he's an adult?
2. Because Luke had gotten several packs of wolves to accept him as a bona fide member, some people thought he was a genius; some thought he was insane. What was your initial assessment? Did you change your mind?
3. What event makes Cara first realize why her father couldn't break free of the wolf community? Do you think you'd feel the same?
4. The author compares a wolf pack to the Mafia—different roles, different jobs to do, the "code", family. Discuss.
5. What kind of big brother was Edward to Cara?
6. The policemen have information about the accident. What does the reader find out about Cara? Does this change your sympathies concerning Cara?

7. Anyone who has had a loved one in the hospital recognizes the medical jargon and how difficult it is to follow. How do you feel about the interchange between Edward and Dr. Saint-Clare?
8. Luke describes in detail his first experience being in an enclosure with wolves. Do you think you could do it? (p.60-63)
9. We learn how Luke and Georgie meet. Would you consider it romantic? Why or why not?
10. When Edward is going through his father's personal effects, he comes across Luke's driver's license in the wallet. Luke is an organ donor. Does that help Edward in his decision?
11. Cara states that she knows why Edward left. Discuss.
12. When Luke went into the wild, Edward had to take care of the finances. Is this fair or right for a 15 year old?
13. Edward finds a handwritten statement giving him say so over Luke's medical care. At the time, Edward was only fifteen. Why was that kind of responsibility given to Edward? Should it have been?
14. Was Edward wrong to allow Cara into the wolf area? Was he being irresponsible?
15. Edward takes the wolf to his dad's hospital room. How do you feel about his actions? Discuss.
16. The family meeting is harrowing to attend and respond to. Have you had to do so? Discuss. Does Edward really misinterpret Cara's wishes?

17. Edward honestly thinks he's protecting Cara and fulfilling her wishes when she bursts in to Luke's room and yell at him to stop. Is he justified in his actions? (p.166)
18. Cara gets her friend to take her to the county attorney's office. How does this drastic measure compare to Edward's act of pulling the plug? Discuss.
19. Luke realizes the wolf pack is his new family. That seems to be a huge conflict—he has a family already. Discuss.
20. "What looks cruel and heartless from one angle might, from another, actually be the only way to protect your family." How does this fit Edward and Georgie's thinking? (p.190)
21. Edward points out that "we people who leap without looking are not stupid. We know damn well we might be headed for a fall. But we also know that, sometimes, it's the only way out". Do you agree or disagree with that thinking? Have you done anything knowing you are headed to a fall?
22. Luke tells Edward "no matter what you do for someone...make one wrong move at the wrong moment, and you become someone unrecognizable." Do you agree? Disagree? (p.198)
23. The job of the alpha is to hold the family together, so that at the most crucial moment, its members all do as they're told. How are human families like this?
24. What is Cara's reasoning to justify lying to the grand jury? Seen from a seventeen year old's perspective, does it make sense?

25. Edward realizes he can't be in jail: "I couldn't live like this, in a cage." Wouldn't that be how Luke would feel if he were aware of his circumstances? Discuss. (p.230)
26. "I guess I didn't think about the fact that actions have consequences." How does this one statement remind us that Cara is only 17, a minor? (p.237)
27. Edward is realizing that he's becoming more and more like Luke. Georgie realizes Cara is reminding her of herself? What examples show this?
28. Luke's real reason for walking away from the pack when he did was he knew if he didn't go then, he would stay forever. Discuss.
29. What adjustments does Luke struggle with after he's back home from the wild? At what point does Luke realize that Georgie knew she'd lost him for good? Do you blame her?
30. When Edward drops Cara off at the hospital to see Luke, what amazing thing occurs? How would you react?
31. After Luke has returned from the wild, he comments "when I lived with the wolves, I was proud of the reflection of myself. But when I came back, I always paled in comparison." Discuss. (p.381)
32. Are you surprised by Helen Bedd's suggestion to the court? Do you agree or disagree?
33. What is the significance of Edward finding and displaying the pictures in which he is included?
34. Who actually wins the permanent guardianship of Luke? Are you surprised?

35. Edward and Cara go to the wolf enclosure the night before their father's death. What do the wolves do?
36. We find out what actually happened on the night of the car crash. Did that make Cara's actions more understandable?
37. What do you think Barney means when he couldn't shake the feeling that "I was headed home?"