

Discussion Questions

These questions should be a good starting point for an engaging conversation about the plot, characters, and themes of *In the Company of Whales*.

1. Which character do you most relate to and why? Which character do you least relate to and why?
2. How do the characters see themselves? How do others see them?
3. Why does Carla, the main character, believe what she believes about the world? Who or what shapes her beliefs?
4. What kinds of challenges does Carla face? How does she deal with these challenges? What words of advice do you have for her?
5. How does Carla navigate the tension between her desire to push people away and her need to collaborate for the sake of the whales?
6. What kinds of power do characters in the book have? How does the amount of power each character has, or feels like they have, influence their choices and decision-making?
7. How did Carla change or grow throughout the story?
8. How did the secondary characters impact or influence Carla or story?
9. How much did you know about this book before picking it up? What surprised you the most about the book?
10. How thought-provoking did you find the book? Did the book change your opinion about anything, or did you learn something new from it? If so, what?
11. How, if at all, did this book relate to your own life? Did it evoke any memories or create any connections for you?
12. How does this book reflect or not reflect your own identity or lived experiences?
13. What social issues are explored in the book? What message does the book send about one or more of these issues?
14. What does this book say about the world today?
15. What lessons can you take from this book into your own life?