



Discussion Questions: *Daughters of the Deer*

Folger Book Club—March 2024

1. What are your first impressions of the novel? If asked, what would you say this novel is about?
2. Danielle Daniel wrote this novel as a way to explore her own family history, which she includes in an appendix. Were you aware of the deep personal connection while reading? Were you surprised by her family tree?
3. How did you interpret the De Champlain quote at the beginning? How did your reading of it change in combination with the other epigraphs? What do you think Daniel was trying to say about cultural erasure?
4. Were you surprised by Pierre's inclusion as one of the perspectives? How did it affect the story?
5. Why do you think the author chose to offer Marie's perspective in first person while Jeanne and Pierre's is offered in third person?
6. What surprised you in this novel? How does it compare with other novels you have read set in the early days of settlers in America, either for the Folger Book Club or on your own?
7. On pg 21, Marie reflects, "As much as I respect our chief, I am torn over the path he is leading us down. His alliance with the church has not brought us the protection we need, and yet we concede to more of their customs, their values. The Sachem says it's important to show our loyalty, that it helps build trust, that in the end it will be for a greater cause because the Weskrarini will live on." Do you think this was the right choice?
8. How does Nadie's prediction about Marie's daughter color the events in the second half of the book? Did you remain aware that Jeanne was fated for an untimely death?
9. What role does water play throughout the book?
10. There are multiple moments in the book where characters discuss, consider, or are on the verge of leaving. What do these moments tell us about the agency within the novel? What do you think would have happened if any of these departures were successful?