

WOLFISH

BY CHRISTIANE M. ANDREWS

BOOK CLUB GUIDE



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. **MYTH RETOLD.** Look up the myth of Romulus and Remus. What similarities and differences are there between that story and *Wolfish*? Think about the narratives themselves as well as character names and themes.
2. **YOUR FIRST FOLIO.** The novel is divided into folios. *Folio* comes from the Latin *folium*, meaning “leaf,” and it refers to an early method of arranging sheets of paper (or papyrus or parchment) into a book by folding each sheet once, thus creating four pages of text. Why do you think the author divided *Wolfish* into folios? Now make your own folio! Fold a sheet of paper in half to form a folio for a myth from your imagination. Create a cover on the front leaf, and then make up a story about wolves, oracles, shepherds, kings (or queens!) and write it on the remaining three pages.
3. **SHEPHERD’S SONG.** Mop encourages Rae to sing her own song by listening to the world around her (p. 89). Write a song of your own (Rae’s is just eight short lines!), and the next time you’re out in nature, sing it to the world.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are each of the characters on the book’s cover? What is the significance of the water surrounding them?
2. What is an oracle? When acting as oracle in chapter IV, Alba offers prophecies based on “what she saw on people’s faces,” not what the waters told her (p. 21). Why? In doing so, do you think she helps or harms?
3. How do Mop and Nessa show their love for Rae? How does Rae return their love? In contrast, how is the king treated by his family and the Governor-Advisor? How does their parental treatment affect how Rae and the king act toward others?
4. How does Rae’s song come to her in chapter XV? What do you think her song means?



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5. When Alba writes Maurus's story, it's important for him that she record that he cared for his siblings and misses them (p. 98). Why do you think these facts matter to Maurus? How does *writing* them down—not just thinking them—have significance?
6. Why is Rae excited to go with her parents to the autumn market? Why does she struggle to stay hidden during their escape? Why does Alba create a distraction and get herself taken by the guards instead?
7. How does the king try to change his prophecy? In trying to change it, how does he make it come true?
8. Alba senses regret in the guard who abandoned the twins. Why do you think the guard denies feeling regret? What does Alba mean when she says, "Duty is not destiny" (p. 239)? Who else in the novel feels regret?
9. Rae says of Mop's songs, "Even if language never returns to him, these are his words—always" (p. 331). How does writing down stories, songs, and memories keep them alive?
10. Why don't they feed the wolf while imprisoning him and Rae in the palace?
11. Alba doesn't want to be king, but she *does* want to help people (pp. 385–386). How does only wanting to help others make her a great king?
12. What do the interlude chapters add to the narrative? Are these parchment fragments, notes, chronicles, and other records an accurate portrayal of the events they're describing? What do they suggest about our understanding of history?
13. How do Rae and Rom save each other? Rom says that he didn't know loneliness as a wolf but that he does know it as a human—and he's happy to know it (pp. 403–404). What do you think he means?
14. Identify instances throughout the novel when Alba struggles to say silent. How might being quiet be easier or safer for her? How is speaking her truth courageous? How is speaking your truth courageous?
15. Look back at Alba's original prophecy. How accurate was it? Did the characters interpret it correctly? Did it unfold as they expected? Did the characters in the novel have free will to make their own choices or were they following their destinies?



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