

North of Nowhere by Allison Brennan

Discussion Guide

1. The novel's opening line is: "Tony Reed was alive today because he always listened to his gut." Why do you think the author chose to introduce Tony—and the book—in this way? How would it have been different if another character opened the novel?
2. *North of Nowhere* takes place in Big Sky while the characters face an imminent blizzard. How does the author use the setting, time frame, and weather to heighten the tension?
3. What characters are foils to each other? Why do you think the author chose to do this?
4. The idea of safety is a common theme throughout *North of Nowhere*. What does safety mean to the different characters in the novel? Is it a person, a place, a feeling, something else? Do you think any character's definition of the word changes by the end of the book?
5. The characters are all forced to make split-second decisions. In the story it says: "Some people do the wrong thing for the right reason." Do you agree with the characters' choices? Were there any you would have done differently?
6. There are many different animals in *North of Nowhere*, both domesticated and wild. How do the characters interact with these animals throughout the novel? What wildlife encounters have you had in your life?
7. In the acknowledgments, the author writes, "I had wanted to write about family—the good and the bad." How does the author use family—both by blood and by choice—in *North of Nowhere*?
8. The author continues to build suspense as the story unfolds. Is there a particular scene or point in the novel that you find to be the most tense? What about the most emotional?
9. At one point in the novel, Nick says, "No one is all good or all bad." Do you think this is true of all of us? Do you think any characters redeem themselves by the end of the novel?
10. Given the ending of *North of Nowhere*, what do you think the future holds for the characters?

