

*Moon of the Crusted Snow* by Waubgeshig Rice

Book club Tuesday 10/29/24 at 6 PM at Comstock Township Library

Discussion questions

- 1) What kinds of things do the Anishinaabe people do to preserve their culture?
- 2) What is the role of Dan's, Nicole's and Evan's dreams in the story? What do the dreams add to the story?
- 3) Aileen is a respected elder and substitute grandmother for Evan. Have you had anyone like that in your life?
- 4) How does the collapse of modern society lead to a return to more traditional ways of living for the folks surviving on the reservation?
- 5) Rice does not reveal the cause of societal collapse. Rather, he contains the story to the reservation and how its residents are surviving. Why do you think he wrote the story that way? Were you curious to know more, or were you satisfied with the limited information that he gave?
- 6) Aileen tells Evan that the Anishinaabe people have already survived the end of their world multiple times – having their native land taken away and resettling outside their territory, and their children being forced into residential schools, for example (149). She believes their people will continue to survive as they have always done, so to her it doesn't seem like the end of the world (150). What do you think of her point of view?
- 7) How does Justin Scott gain influence and followers? What does he represent?

8) Why does Scott feel entitled to cannibalize the dead to have more food?

9) How does this book compare to other apocalyptic books you have read or movies you have seen?

10) Have you read books by other indigenous or Native American authors?

11) What are the core messages of this book? Would you recommend it to others?

12) The sequel to Moon of the Crusted Snow, Moon of the turning Leaves, takes place 12 years after the events of the first book. Would you like to read it?

Interview video with the author

TMU Connections. (2021). Book Talk: Moon of the Crusted Snow with Waubgeshig Rice. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zIDXKKcU9Y>