

Discussion Guide

Wren Island with Wallace Around by Laura Joy Lloyd

Questions from Part 1

1. Wallace cares deeply about his daughters, yet has difficulty using words to communicate his feelings. In what other ways does Wallace express his care?
2. A concern for the underdog influences many of Wallace's decisions. At times, he's even willing to let the perceived oppressor suffer. Is Wallace's attitude justifiable? Why or why not?
3. In a dream, Wallace panics about losing someone. Have you ever experienced a dream that seemed to hold special meaning?
4. Wallace goes to great lengths to care for critters other people don't notice or think about. Why do you think Wallace cares so much? Have you ever known someone like this?
5. Amelia indicates she's felt mostly invisible for most of her life. Can you identify with her feelings at all?
6. While alone and quiet, Amelia discovers a "revelation" she wasn't expecting. Do you think Amelia would have discovered the same revelation while in conversation with people? Why or why not?
7. While vacationing in Hawaii, Amelia experiences homesickness. Why might being "home" hold such great appeal?

Questions from Part 2

8. While walking on the beach, Amelia finds pieces of plastic. What are some ideas for how she could repurpose the plastic?
9. Have you ever wished, like Amelia, you could wave a magic wand and a team of people would do everything you asked? In what ways might imagining this be helpful? In what ways might it not be?
10. When Amelia accidentally knocks a drink off the table and makes a mess, everyone responds differently. What do the responses from Amelia, Macy, Allison, and Wallace reflect about their personalities?

11. Wallace tells Amelia, “When you stop feeling sorry for yourself, the rest of the world will, too.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
12. Wallace encounters the unexpected on Seal Rock. What do you think the evidence suggests? Is Wallace right to be concerned? Why or why not?
13. Amelia and Allison come up with a plan regarding the future of the commune property. Do you think their plan is reasonable? Why or why not?
14. Most of the time, Wallace masks his deepest emotions. How do the events in Part 2 lead to Wallace expressing his emotions?

Questions from Part 3

15. Amelia doesn’t think tourists will understand Wren is “a grieving island.” She also says she’s “missing memories that would never be made.” Can you identify with her feelings at all? In what ways?
16. What do the stacked rocks symbolize to Wallace? To Amelia?
17. Who do you think is appearing in Wallace’s recurring dream? One of his daughters? Amelia? Someone else?
18. According to Wallace, “a man with Wallace’s background will never experience peace.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
19. Can Frank Whatcom Jr. be trusted? Why or why not?
20. When confronting Carl Grimwald, Wallace responds with violence, then regrets his actions. Grimwald responds with intentional compassion. What might their actions indicate about each of them?
21. Decades later, Amelia discovers something new in a letter from her fiancé. Have you ever experienced anything like this?

Questions from Part 4

22. Boss lady Amelia attempts to establish boundaries regarding relationships with friends who are also employees. In what ways is this helpful? In what ways does this cause difficulty?
23. Wallace is hit with grief at unexpected times and in unexpected ways. Have you experienced something like this? If so, what advice would you give to Wallace?

24. A combination of errors resulted in what Wallace referred to as “the fiasco of the Jeeps and goats.” Name a few mistakes made. Could they have been avoided?
25. Amelia confronts Wallace about their shared past while still processing her own emotions. In what ways was it helpful for her to talk with Wallace? Do you think she would have benefited from waiting longer? Saying something sooner? Why or why not?
26. Where do you think the relationship between Amelia and Wallace will go from here? What do you *want* to see happen in their relationship?

Find more fun stuff about [*Wren Island with Wallace Around*](https://www.laurajoylloyd.com) on the author’s website!

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