



When We Were Vikings

Andrew MacDonald

Discussion Questions

1. On page 13, Zelda says, "Deeds and actions are what will make a person great and legendary." Do you think Zelda's deeds and actions throughout the book have given her legendary status? What about Gert's or AK47's? Discuss with your group.
2. In the beginning of the book, Zelda tells a woman, "Hurting children causes emotional instability as adults." Discuss Zelda's and Gert's childhood. Do you think they were able to overcome the instability of their own childhoods and form meaningful relationships with others? Why or why not? Do you think it is possible for people to come out of a traumatic childhood unharmed?
3. Zelda frequently repeats wisdom she has learned from others, such as "we do not lie to people in our tribe." Share with your group something you learned from Zelda or your favorite Zelda quote. Have you applied any of Zelda's wisdom to your own life?
4. Dr. Kepple tells Zelda that "sometimes life finds us, and when it does we have to rise to the occasion and have courage." How does Zelda demonstrate this at different points throughout the novel?
5. Zelda says she forgot Toucan was a villain when he was dying. How does Toucan's death affect Zelda, AK47 and Gert?
6. In terms of Zelda's Viking moral code, does Zelda's killing of Toucan make her a villain or a hero? What do you think would have happened if Zelda never confronted him?
7. By the end of the novel, Zelda has displayed constant bravery and heroism in the face of challenges and obstacles. Discuss with your group whether you know of anyone with a disability who has triumphed in a similar way, and how society at large can better help people like Zelda flourish.





About the Author

Andrew David MacDonald grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He won a Western Magazine Award for Fiction, was shortlisted for the Canadian National Magazine Award for Fiction, and his work has been anthologized in four volumes of *The Journey Prize Stories*, collecting the year's best Canadian stories from emerging writers. He has an MFA from the Program for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

This book is available for download as an eBook. For more information, please visit lpl.overdrive.com or call 519-661-4600.

Author bio from: [When We Were Vikings](#) | [Book by Andrew David MacDonald](#) | [Official Publisher Page](#) | [Simon & Schuster \(simonandschuster.com\)](#)