

BOOK CLUB in a bag

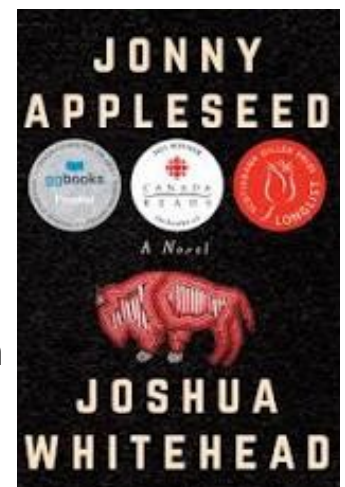


Jonny Appleseed

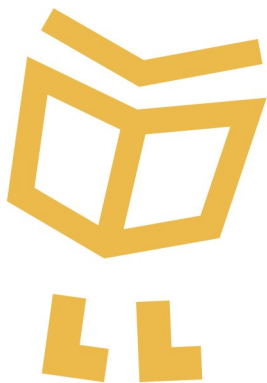
Joshua Whitehead

Discussion Questions

1. Joshua Whitehead shares much in common with Jonny — he is an Oji-nêhiyaw two-spirited man who grew up in Peguis First Nation before moving to Winnipeg. Is it important to you that a writer has this type of connection to the content of their book?
2. Joshua Whitehead grew up in Peguis First Nation and Winnipeg and told a story of his communities. What is a story in your community that you think needs to be told?
3. A classic instruction for writers is to “Show, don’t tell”. This means that authors will trust readers to infer important ideas in their writing rather than state them explicitly. What details do you see that suggest that Jonny’s childhood has been difficult and that his mother expects his life to stay that way?
4. *Jonny Appleseed* is a book that features a protagonist whose experiences will be unfamiliar to many readers. Why is it important that all of Canada read a book that is rooted in Jonny’s singular experience? Can something so specific also be universal?
5. Joshua Whitehead describes himself as Indigiqueer. Intersectionality is an attempt to understand how different parts of us, our “categories,” combine to give us advantages or disadvantages in society. What are the parts of you that best describe your intersectional identity?
6. Joshua Whitehead has written *Jonny Appleseed* in “NDN Time” where storylines of the past, present and future are spliced together to form the narrative. In your reading experience, what are examples of books you’ve read that have challenging narrative structures? Do you prefer being challenged this way as a reader, or do you prefer more linear, chronological narratives? Why or why not?
7. Jonny, despite facing many challenging circumstances in his life, draws on those around him to find strength and joy. What are your sources for strength and joy when times are difficult?



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About the Author

Joshua Whitehead is an Oji-Cree/nehiyaw, Two-Spirit/Indigiqueer member of Peguis First Nation (Treaty 1). He is the author of the novel *Jonny Appleseed* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018), longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and the poetry collection *Full-Metal Indigiqueer* (Talonbooks, 2017) and the winner of the Governor General's History Award for the Indigenous Arts and Stories Challenge in 2016. He is also the editor of *Love after the End: An Anthology of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Speculative Fiction* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2020). Currently he is working on a PhD in Indigenous Literatures and Cultures in the University of Calgary's English department (Treaty 7).

Via Arsenal Pulp Press (<https://arsenalpulp.com/Contributors/W/Whitehead-Joshua>)

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