

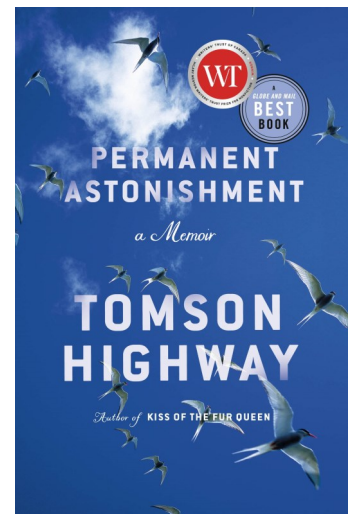
# BOOK CLUB in a bag



## Permanent Astonishment Tomson Highway

### Discussion Questions

1. What did you think of the book? Have you read anything by Tomson Highway before?
2. The author describes their family, in particular his parents, Joe and Balazee, in great detail. Discuss the family's dynamic, particularly with his brother René, and his parents "remarkable marriage."
3. Discuss the author's experience at the residential school. Despite facing abuse at the school, he has been quoted as saying it was "nine of the happiest years of [his] life." What do you think of this?
4. The author identifies as two-spirit and is often picked on as a child for being effeminate. Discuss this identity and his father's acceptance of it (130).
5. The author describes this work as a "symphony," drawing on his musical career and the Cree language. What did you think of this style of writing?
6. Discuss the author's note. What did you think of the author's description of this book as a "shape-shifter residing in the space between fact and fiction...between memory and dream"?
7. What did this memoir allow you to learn about the Cree culture and language?
8. Only the author's first 15 years are covered in this memoir. Do you wish it had covered more? Do you think there will be a follow-up?



# BOOK CLUB in a bag



This book may be available for download as an eBook and an audiobook.

For more information, please visit [lpl.overdrive.com](http://lpl.overdrive.com) or call 519-661-4600.

## About the Author

Tomson Highway was born in a snowbank on the Manitoba/Nunavut border to a family of nomadic caribou hunters. He is a Two-Spirit Cree playwright, novelist, and musician, best known for his plays *The Rez Sisters* and *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*, as well as the novel *Kiss of the Fur Queen*. Highway holds ten honorary doctorates, delivered the Margaret Laurence Lecture in 2018, and was recognized with the Order of Canada in 1994. He divides his year between Gatineau, Quebec and Naples, Italy.

Via the Writers' Trust of Canada (<https://www.writerstrust.com/authors/tomson-highway/>)

Need titles for your next book club? Visit [lpl.ca/bookclubinabag](http://lpl.ca/bookclubinabag)

