



# ONE BOOK

NORTHLAND

## Discussion Guide

1. The title of the novel, “The Wind and the Drum,” has a double meaning. What is the significance of these dual meanings?
2. Tuuli does not reveal that the fawn is lame; she hides the sacred Drum of Four Winds; she tries to block out the wind’s whispering to her; she worries that she has brought troubles to her people. Does Tuuli share any blame for what happens? How would the lives of the Sami be different if she had given up the drum?
3. Tuuli likens herself to a trapped wolf that chews off its own leg to free itself. How is this comparison apt when Tuuli travels away from her own people? What does she leave behind in order to save her people, the reindeer, and herself?
4. When tax collectors arrive demanding furs, fish, and what little they have of value, the Sami don’t understand how someone can own the land they believe belongs to the reindeer that have migrated there for generations. How does their situation compare with that of the Plains Indians who followed the migrations of the buffalo, and the arrival of buffalo hunters and settlers?
5. The time (the 1670s) and the location (the kingdom of Sweden, north of the Arctic Circle) place the novel in the midst of the most severe span of the “Little Ice Age.” How does this setting inform the events of the story?
6. The Sami (and the Finns) had a reputation in the Nordic realm as powerful workers of magic well into the modern era. How has our world view changed? Has anything of importance been lost?
7. The lives of the Sami revolve around the seasons of the reindeer (migration, calving, mating, shedding of antlers). How does their dependence on the reindeer define their choices and view of life?
8. The word “báiki” is important to the Sami people. It means the home that one carries within one’s own heart. What does Tuuli carry in her heart on her journeys?
9. Can you think of any parallels today with the Sami’s experience of being forced to give up their beliefs and way of life in favor of that of the dominant culture?
10. How would you characterize the story’s conclusion? Is it a happy ending?