BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS FOR SAY GOODBYE FOR NOW BY CATHERINE RYAN HYDE

1. By choice, Dr. Lucy closed her medical practice and moved to an isolated Texas ranch far away from people and places that remind her of the past she left behind. How does her isolation from society affect her interaction with the other characters? How do her relationships with the other characters change the person she becomes?

2. Dr. Lucy spends her days rescuing and caring for abandoned and injured animals and doctoring criminals on the run to help pay for her sanctuary. Do the ends in this situation justify the means? Is breaking the law ever a sanctified act?

3. Pete finds an injured wolf-dog at the side of the road. Despite the apparent danger and hardships involved, he manages to get the dog to Dr. Lucy for care. What does this say about Pete’s character? How would you have handled this situation at his age? What might you have done differently?

4. After Pete and Justin become friends, the whole town, including Pete’s father, turns violently against the interracial friendship. But the boys continue despite the threats. Do you agree with the choice they made? Would the violence against Justin have happened regardless of the decision they made?

5. While Justin is recovering, Calvin spends the weekend at Dr. Lucy’s, and to both of their surprise, despite the dangerous circumstances, they form an easy and comfortable connection. Why do you think these two people from such diverse backgrounds were drawn to each other? How does the topic of marriage drive the plot of the story?

6. After his son is beaten, Calvin is framed for a fight and thrown in jail by the local police. How much do you think racism has changed since the 1960s in this country? Do you think the criminal justice system truly sees no color, or is race still a defining factor?

7. Pete forms a strong bond with the wolf-dog. After Prince recovers, Pete must make the decision whether or not to release him back to the wild. Dr. Lucy and Calvin form a strong bond and must decide whether to stay together or let go of the relationship in hopes that it can continue at a later date. How does love play a part in letting go in both relationships?

8. At the end of the book, Calvin and Dr. Lucy are reunited after the Supreme Court ruling regarding the Loving v. Virginia case. Why do you think the author based the story around a true court case? How did it impact your reading of the story?

1. After Prince returns in his old age, Pete thinks, “It felt like a confidence in things. The normally empty chest space seemed to surge with the sudden notion that losses can be restored—at least some of the time. That things can turn out, long after you had accepted that they never would.” What emotion is Pete trying to describe here? How does that emotion become an underlying theme for the main relationships in the book?