

## BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

# THE WOLF HUNT

By Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

1. Early in the book, Lilach addresses Jamal Jones and says, “Maybe it was you who should have been afraid of me.” Do you think this assessment is justified? Why or why not?
2. The first major incident in the book is an attack on a local synagogue. In what way does this attack set the rest of the plot in motion? What effect, if any, does this attack have on the outlook and actions of the characters in the book?
3. What role does race play in the way the community and law enforcement react to Jamal’s death? Do you think these responses would have been different if Jamal were white?
4. Adam’s participation in Uri’s class has a deep effect on him. Do you think this effect is positive or negative overall? On pp. 108–111, Lilach observes one of their training exercises. What do you make of it? Was it a positive team-building exercise or something more sinister?
5. Lilach discusses the story of how Mikhael’s parents came to adopt him and says that she “thought there was not one story here, but two” (60). What does she mean by this? How do he and Uri resemble each other? How are they different? Do you think that in similar circumstances Mikhael would have acted as Uri acts in the book?
6. On pp. 74–76, Lilach and Mikhael debate how to respond to a teacher’s alert that Adam is being hurt by a fellow preschool student. Lilach asks, “Would you rather see him biting them?” and Mikhael answers, “No question about it. Don’t tell me you’d rather see him being the victim?” Whom do you agree with, or are there other possible options besides these two?

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7. The role of mother is embodied by various characters in the book, including Lilach, Annabella, Mikhael's mother Dina, and Lilach's mother, among others. How do they differ from one another in their choices of how to be a mother? Do you feel one or more of these models is more successful than the others?
8. Lilach and Dwayne, one of the residents at the senior center, discuss several times Jamal's death and the response to it. He says, "The dead boy's mother, she was born in America and she'll die here, but I'm telling you, you're more a part of this place than she'll ever be." (117). What does he mean by this? Do you agree with him?
9. On pp. 218-220, Lilach tells Uri the story of Ofri, whom she has only mentioned tangentially so far in the book. Why does she choose to tell Uri the story at this particular juncture? How might this experience, and her family and friends' reaction to it, have shaped other decisions she makes in the book?
10. The author uses the metaphors of the wolf, and sheep, throughout the book. What do they represent, and does this change over the course of the story? Who did you see as the wolf and the sheep in the book?
11. Throughout the book, Lilach seeks to find out what was Adam's involvement with Jamal. What do you think their actual relationship was?
12. What do you think happened between Jamal and Adam? If you were Lilach, how far would you have gone to find out whether Adam was involved in Jamal's death?