

WHOSE WAVES THESE ARE *Book Club Resource Kit*

Contents:

- A note from Amanda
- Customizable book club agenda ideas, including . . .
 - Activity ideas and resources
 - Background music
 - Setting videos, and more.

Take what you like, leave what you don't, and have fun!

- Discussion questions
- Menu ideas
- Bonus activities
- Complimentary maritime décor for your meeting

A NOTE FROM AMANDA

Dear Book Club Leader,

Oh, what joy you bring, gathering hearts and fostering community around books and story. Thank you, thank you, thank you for considering *Whose Waves These Are* as one of your club's reads!

In appreciation for all that you do, I've assembled a kit to try and lighten your load. Please pick and choose (and change and tailor to your club's needs) anything in this packet of ideas that appeals to you.

As long as supplies last, I would love to send a bookmark for each book club member your way, if you are in the United States. If you are international, not to worry! I've got lots of goodies tucked into this packet too.

Likewise, whenever time allows, I'd be honored to take part in your meeting from afar by recording a video to answer any questions your group has, or share some behind-the-scenes stories, or simply say hello. Just dash me an email at amandajdykes@gmail.com, with the subject line *Book Club Request*, and we'll see what we can arrange! It would be a true delight.

I wish you a joy-filled, light-filled, hope-filled meeting of heartfelt discussion, laughter, and community.

With joy and thanks,

Amanda

CUSTOMIZABLE BOOK CLUB AGENDA IDEAS

One-hour meeting (double the suggested times for a two-hour meeting)

Atmosphere:

- Music: perhaps put on the playlist Amanda listened to when she needed inspiration for this story? You can find it [here](#).
- Décor: Looking for some whimsical maritime décor? Print out the images attached later in the packet, pop them in some dollar store 8x10 frames or hang them from a strung length of twine using clothespins, and use them as door prizes throughout the meeting if you like.

Arrival: Guests fill plates and/or mugs or glasses with Maine-inspired fare (see menu ideas list later in packet).

If you want a hands-on activity for the group, consider teaming up to make [Savannah Bliss's Famous Hazelut Pie](#). Pop it in the oven so it'll be ready to devour at the end of the meeting.

10 minute icebreaker: [Which Ansel-by-the-Sea Locale Are You? Personality Quiz](#). Members can take part on their mobile devices or on one central computer/phone/tablet. Share results and explore them on the map inside of the book.

30 minute discussion: Use the enclosed discussion questions as a starting point, or your own discussion prompts, and see where the evening takes you.

15 minute bonus activities (pick and choose what works for you):

- Celebrate *Your Story* (Create a personal memento using latitude/longitude coordinates—see attached instructions for details)
- Easter egg hunt. Did you read both the novella and the novel? Find these hidden gems, tucked into the novella just for you (see attached page for details)
- [Experience the magic of bioluminescence](#). Watch what happens when the kayaks, oars, and hands dip into the water! Oh, Jeremiah Fletcher. You cunning postman, winning Annie's heart with microbiology.
- Hop on over to the Lobster Festival to see this video of the traditional [crate races](#)!
- Explore the town that inspired Ansel-by-the-Sea . . . by drone [video](#)!
- [Hear from](#) the captain of a mailboat/ferry (like Jeremiah is).
- Take a [13-minute tour](#) of harbor life, wildlife, Maine history, food, recreation, and more!
- Did you enjoy Homer the Maine coon cat, and Johannes the dolphin? See the real-life inspiration for them: [Andre the seal](#), a harbor mascot who people used to come sit on benches to watch while eating popcorn.

WHOSE WAVES THESE ARE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Ansel is often described as a “haven” or “refuge” for lost or weary souls. What makes it feel that way? Is there a place that has felt that way to you?
2. Annie’s full name, “Emmanuelle,” means “God is with us.” How do you see that theme appearing in other parts of the story?
3. What were your first impressions of Jeremiah? Did they change as the story progressed? If so, what caused those changes?
4. What qualities do you think make Eva and Bob good for one another as a couple?
5. “Wait” was a word that came to Ed in a time of need. Have you ever chosen a meaningful word or concept to return to during a difficult time?
6. Roy’s last words are: “Don’t get stuck in the dark, Bob. There’s a whole lotta light. Go there instead.” In what ways do you see Bob and other characters choosing light over darkness? What moments in the book felt most light-filled to you? In what ways can you choose to go toward the light in your own life?
7. When you finally read Bob’s famous poem, what feeling did it give you? If it was printed in your newspaper, would you submit a rock for anyone? If so, tell us their story.
8. Liesl’s story of escape and reunion with her family is full of miracles. Have you ever experienced a miracle? What did the inclusion of Liesl’s story—separate from the main plot—add to the novel for you?
9. William’s stepfather refused to answer many of his questions, saying, “It’s not good to live in the past.” In what ways would you say this statement is true or untrue?
10. Have you ever had the experience of attending a small-town festival or other event, like Ansel’s Lobsterfest? What did you most enjoy about it?
11. Jeremiah challenges Annie: “For all that love of life . . . are you actually living it?” What’s the difference between existing and living? How did Ansel and its citizens help Annie to live more fully?
12. When you found out the reason behind Jeremiah’s daily pre-dawn ritual, what did that tell you about him? Have you ever seen (or experienced) a second chance at love?

13. All of the citizens of Ansel worked together to light the beacon at the end of the story. Have you ever been part of a team or community where all roles felt valued and essential? What happened to create that kind of feeling?
14. If you could learn more about (or have lunch with) one of the secondary characters in the novel, which would you choose?
15. There are several instances of fire and light, in many different forms, throughout the story. What are some that you recall, and what might they symbolize? And for fun—if you had to pick one of those instances to be present for, which would it be? (Some ideas: the brotherly bonfire at the beginning, V-E Day bonfire at Picnic Cove, campfire in the mist when Liesl brought her family, witnessing bioluminescence in the water, Jeremiah's sunrise, the community's caravan of flashlights and headlamps in the storm, Annie's flare in the storm as she faces those waves, or perhaps the lighting of the lighthouse in the storm, or at the end once it has its permanent light.)
16. Did you enjoy the Author's Note at the end of the book? What new insights did it give you into the characters or story?

MENU IDEAS

Looking for refreshment ideas? Here's a medley of Maine-inspired fare to choose from!

Fresh blueberries and whipped cream to top

Pancake buffet: Bess's buttermilk Gretel cakes with pure maple syrup, or Eva and Bob's buckwheat flapjacks with blueberry syrup. ...and warm butter, of course!

Popping corn (Courtesy of the Gables, from *Up from the Sea*). Various toppings could include: Parmesan cheese for a savory popcorn, or cinnamon and sugar for a sweet treat. Add a dash of sea salt to either for a maritime feel.

Maine classic: Fluffer-nutter Sandwich (peanut butter and marshmallow cream on white sandwich bread)

Raspberry lime rickey (New England soda—recipe [here](#))

Eva's hot chocolate (made with milk and freshly-ground nutmeg, Eva's secret ingredients.)

Eva's apple cider, as served at the campfire in the woods behind Sailor's Rest

Savannah's [hazelnut pie](#)

Mrs. Crockett's [wild blueberry-rhubarb pie](#) with its golden-brown crust, from the fourth of July scene in *Whose Waves These Are*.

ACTIVITY: CELEBRATE *YOUR* STORY

A no-mess, low-cost, quick and easy activity that allows each person to create a meaningful memento.

In *Whose Waves These Are*, a crucial moment hangs upon the giving of a set of coordinates.

By providing each book club member a memento (such as these [wooden discs](#), \$10 for 30 of them, including twine to hang them with, at the time of this writing) to write their own personal set of coordinates on, everyone will create something meaningful to take home.



Using the website provided on the following instruction page, each person finds coordinates for a location with personal significance to them., Using a fine-point permanent marker, writes the coordinates on the wooden disc (or other memento, such as a nice card).

It can then be used as a wall-hanging, keychain, memento to hang from a rearview car mirror, or displayed elsewhere.

The next page can be printed and cut into easy instructions for each person.

Let's celebrate your story...

IN *WHOSE WAVES THESE ARE*, A CRUCIAL MOMENT HANGS UPON THE GIVING OF A SET OF COORDINATES.

Let this memento hold your own special moment in the form of coordinates, too!

- 1) Go to

<https://www.gps-coordinates.net/>

- 2) Pick a location that's meaningful to you. A special place, favorite refuge, a proposal site, your someday-dream-destination, the place you were born, where a special friendship began...any place especially significant to you.
- 3) Type in your location's name or address (cities and landmark names work, too!) to find its latitude and longitude coordinates.
- 4) Using a fine point permanent marker or other pen, write the coordinates on the wooden disc.

...*Voilà!* Your one-of-a-kind personalized piece of your own beautiful story, ready to hang on your wall, in your car, on your keychain...wherever this sweet reminder will brighten your day.

With your own piece of forest-whimsy in your hand, I'd love to invite you into the tales, so tied to the forest and sea, of *Whose Waves These Are* and its origins prequel, *Up from the Sea*. I'll see you in Ansel-by-the-Sea!

With joy,

Amanda

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EASTER EGG HUNT

Have you read both *Whose Waves These Are* and its free origins novella, *Up from the Sea*? If so, this Easter egg hunt is for you!

Easter eggs, in movies or books, are little elements planted on purpose for the savvy reader to recognize. Hidden gems, inside jokes—little nods that you are “in the know” on why that element is there.

When writing *Up from the Sea*, Amanda took care to hide some of these gems for your treasure-hunting pleasure, taking elements from *Whose Waves These Are* and tucking them into unassuming (or in some cases, dominant) places in the book. Do you remember spotting any of these? If so, what do you remember about them from each book?

- 1) Consider this excerpt, from *Up from the Sea*:

“Sounds like the soul of a poet,” Alastair said.

Savannah laughed. “Yes. Maybe it skips a generation, because I certainly did not get that gift.”

Amanda was sort of winking at the reader in that line. How so?

- 2) Little Abner. Here he is in *Up from the Sea*:

Mrs. Flint, proprietress of the inn, bustled in with the customary intermission tray of silver-pitched hot chocolate and popping corn. Her son, Abner, toddled in behind her.

Did anyone recognize him from *Whose Waves These Are*, decades later?

- 3) In *Whose Waves These Are*, Annie spots a yellow sprigged calico dress behind glass in the Keeping Society’s historical display at the front of the library.

A worn calico day dress with sprigged yellow bouquets behind a glass case presides at the head of the room, looking more like something a Southern belle would wear than a lady of the wilds of Maine.

Did anyone recognize this same dress in *Up from the Sea*?

- 4) *Scale it back. There lies the thing to do*, Alastair says in *Up from the Sea*. What role do these words play, a generation later?

- 5) Alastair explains his love of the book *Rob Roy* in this exchange:

"[He] was a MacGregor!" Alastair clenched a fist of pride in front of him. "Clan of warriors, back in Scotland. And if I'm ever blessed with sons, I hope I'll be able to give to them what Rob Roy has given me."

"...a book in their pocket?"

"A legacy of courage." He stuffed the book back in his pocket."

How does this tie in to *Whose Waves These Are*?

- 6) Savannah brought out her Mama's deep red skein of yarn and the afghan her mother had never had a chance to finish, and "knit away the silent hours, weaving prayers for this family into every stitch". Do you recognize this afghan when it appears in *Whose Waves These Are* decades later? Would you say Savannah's prayers were answered?
- 7) Bob's boat, in *Whose Waves these Are*, is called the *Savvy Mae*. Any guesses why, now that you've read *Up from the Sea*?
- 8) Mary speaks this to Savannah:

"Someday, Savannah Mae, when you have children of your own—don't let them repeat our mistakes. I pray they'll be as close as your mother and I once were, and when the trials of life come, it will only bring them closer. Not drive them apart."

How do you see this playing out in the lives of Robert and Roy, decades later?

- 9) In *Up from the Sea*, Lissette knelt and prayed this prayer for her newly-planted tree:

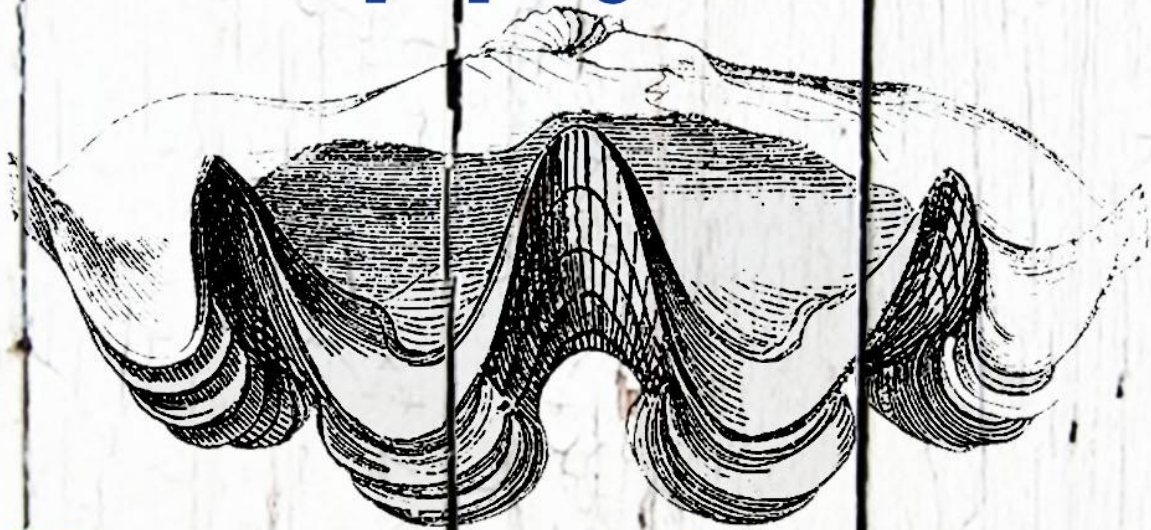
May the years tend it long after I am able to, and may it be used for good, and not evil. May it lead to life, not death. May it unite, not divide. May it, in the way of your own great Atonement Tree, bring light from darkness, through you, O Lord.

What became of the wood and paper from the tree? And of the land it was on, in *Whose Waves These Are*? Would you say Lissette's prayers were answered?

FREE MAINE-ESQUE MARITIME DECOR

Enjoy these free printables! Amanda designed them for you with hopes of bringing a dash of quirk and whimsy to your meeting, if you decide to use them. They can be printed, trimmed, hung, or popped into dollar store 8x10 frames, and given away to members (or kept to populate your summer décor) at the end of the meeting. Enjoy...and—dare we say it? Live long and lobster! ;)

Happy as a



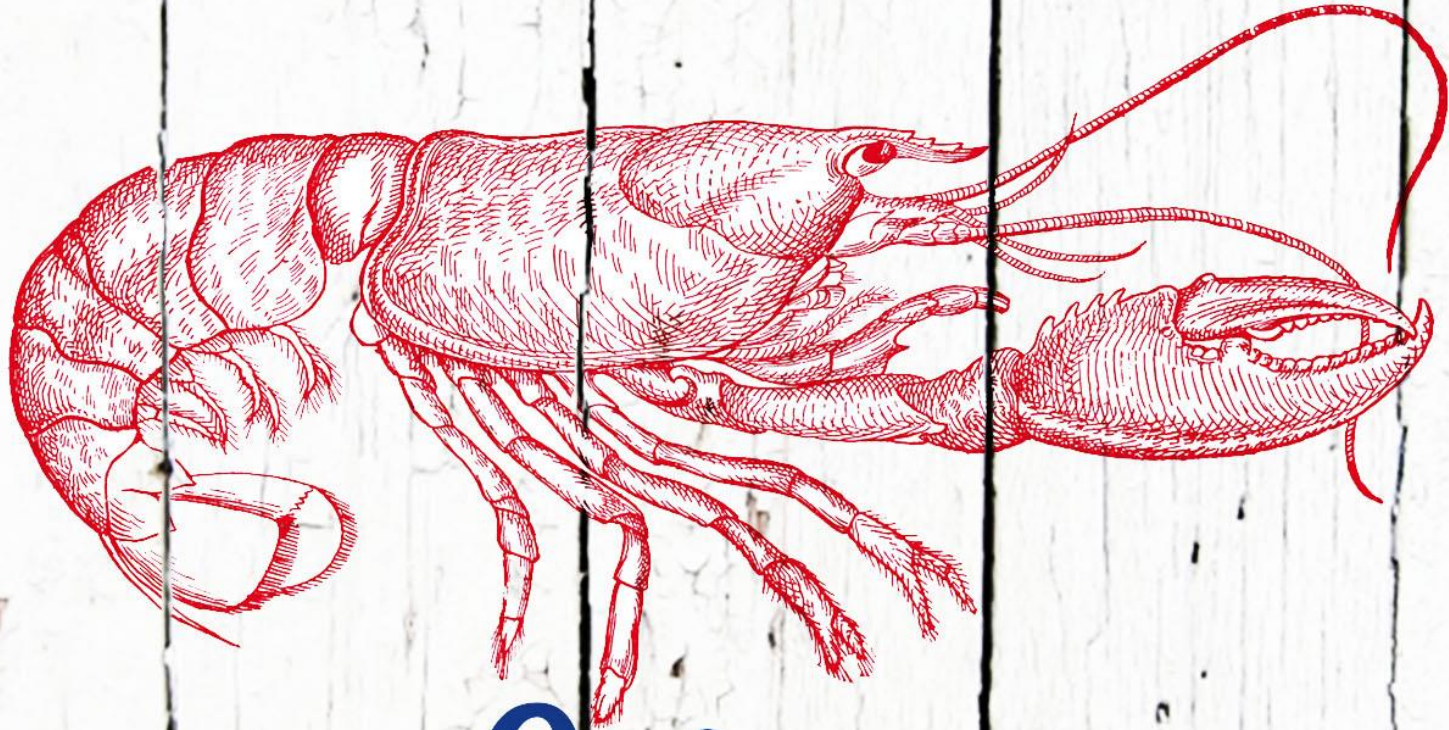
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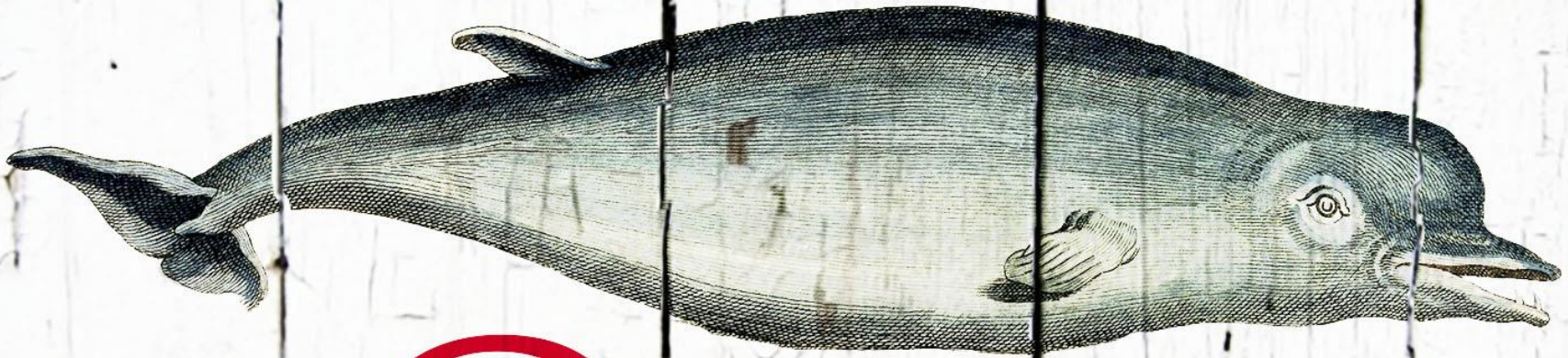
CRABITUDES

LIVE LONG &



Lobster

LIVE WITH



Porpoise

WHALE,



hi there.

