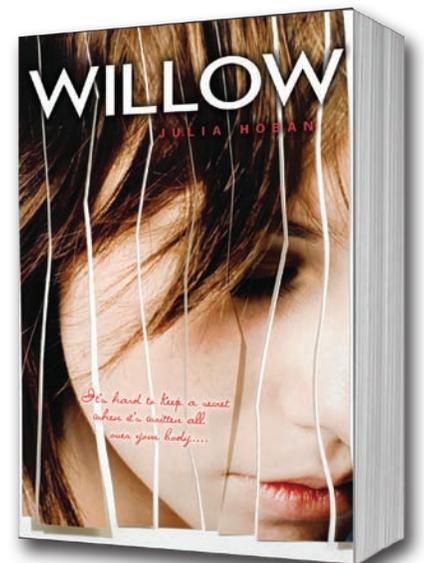


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR WILLOW

- *Willow* is written in the present tense. Why do you think the author made this choice for the story?
- What role does anthropology play in the story? What does it come to symbolize?
- Willow justifies her cutting by saying that the physical pain allows her to dull the emotional pain of the accident. Do you think her rationalization makes sense? Why or why not?
- Throughout the story, Willow sees David sobbing at the kitchen table at night. How do her reactions change each time she sees him in this fragile state?
- Guy promises Willow that he won't tell David about her cutting. Do you think that is a responsible decision? Why or why not?
- After lashing out at David and Cathy, Willow calls Guy on the phone and lets him listen silently while she cuts herself. Discuss the significance of this scene.
- What is the importance of the conversation that Guy and Willow have at the museum regarding Guy's fears. How do Guy's confessions about protecting her affect Willow?
- While kissing Guy for the first time at the library, Willow is overcome with the emotional pain of the car accident and instinctively reaches for her razor. Discuss this emotional response. Why do you think that she allows Guy to watch such a private moment?
- While visiting her parents' house, Willow and Guy become intimate for the first time. How do you think this changes Willow emotionally? Why is she suddenly ready to take this step after pushing intimacy away for so long?
- After David and Willow finally share their feelings about the accident and the emotional struggles that they've been going through, why do you think she's still unwilling to tell him about her cutting? Do you think that she'll ever tell him?
- What ultimately changes for Willow by the end of the story? Do you think that she'll stop cutting?

WILLOW by Julia Hoban
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PB: 978-0-14-241666-2 • \$8.99 (\$10.50 CAN)



HOW TO START YOUR OWN BOOK CLUB

Think it would be hard to start your own book club? Think again!

All you need is a little bit of organization and some friends who are as excited about the books they read as you are.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED

The best way to find people to be in your book club is to ask your friends.

Think of all the people you know who like to read, and ask them to join. If you still don't feel like you have enough people, ask each of your friends to bring someone else. You can usually get a good discussion going with 6–8 people, but any number that is comfortable for you will work. If you're having trouble finding enough cool people to form your club, check with your school, local library, or bookstore to see if there's a group that you can join.

Figure out when and where you want to meet.

Some groups meet once a month, some meet every other month. You could get together at someone's house, in a park, on the beach, or in your school's library. If it sounds too official and overwhelming to decide all the "wheres" and "whens" right now, don't worry! It's YOUR group and so YOU get to make all the decisions. All you have to do is get together once, and you can work out the rest of the details later.

Decide how you will choose books, and how the discussions will be run.

This is another one that sounds a little scary but totally isn't. Maybe you have a favorite author that you and your friends would like to focus on. Or maybe you want to take turns picking your favorite book. Maybe one person likes to talk and would like to lead the discussion, or maybe you would rather just get together and talk about the books you are reading. If you get stuck, you can often find discussion questions online (try the publisher's website) or at your local library or bookstore.

The most important thing to remember is that there's no right or wrong way to have a book club. Do what you're comfortable with and always have fun, and your group will be a success!

For more discussion guides to get your group going, visit
www.pointofviewbooks.com