



READER'S
GUIDE

NONE OF US
THE SAME

Jeffrey K. Walker

Book One of the *Sweet Wine of Youth* Trilogy

Welcome to the Reader's Guide for *None of Us the Same*. Use the following questions to help facilitate your group's discussion.

Afterward, while your thoughts on the novel are fresh, please visit the novel's page on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Kobo and/or Goodreads and leave your review. Jeffrey K. Walker thanks you.

You can continue the conversation, too, by visiting jeffreykwalker.com and leaving your comments. Don't forget to sign up for his monthly newsletter.

1. Now that you've finished the book, flip back and read the epigraph poem at the beginning. Does it hold new meaning for you?
2. What do you think of Deirdre Brannigan in the very first scene at the hospital when she deals with old Mr. Duffy and his "manhood," then hears the church bells signifying war?
3. What role does Uncle Johnny fulfill in the lives of Jack and his friends?
4. Does Eda Brannigan have special powers or is she just observant and intuitive? What about Deirdre?
5. The author often claims his favorite character is Sergeant Pilmore. Why do you think he feels that way?
6. This story is laden with symbolism. The tree at Uncle Johnny's, the lighthouse, and the iceberg are three examples. What does each symbolize? Do these symbols converge?
7. Why did Jack Oakley leave the hospital without telling Deirdre?

8. The catalyst in the book is the trauma of war. How is it manifested in each character? In whom did you find it the most troubling? Who seemed to best weather the impact?
9. Walter Parsons is most certainly an antagonist but beyond that, what does he represent?
10. Given that this story ends during the 1920s, were you surprised by Delia's final declaration to Walter?
11. How did the bonds of friendship and shared experience help and hinder these men and women?
12. Of which family would you most want to be a part? Why?
13. Deirdre leaves Nova Scotia and joins Ned Tobin on a quest to find Jack. Would you have embarked on such a journey? How do you feel about her decision?
14. The female characters in this novel (Eda, Deirdre, Delia, Lena and Sophia) all show tremendous strength but in varying ways. To whom do you most relate? Do their individual choices ring true to you? What would you have done differently?
15. Do you think it wise of Will Parsons to enlist in the war with his Newfoundland friends or should he have become an officer from the start? Would that have changed anything for him?
16. What do you make of the decision to begin rumrunning? Does the war's brutality and the horrendous suffering it caused the main characters justify this later illegality?

17. Historical fiction, first and foremost, is intended to take readers to a different place, to give them a realistic sense of life in a time before their own. Did the book give you that feeling? Of being transported to the trenches and field hospitals of the Great War? Onto the deck of a cod schooner? Into the life of a lighthouse keeper's family? What details really stayed with you?
18. Many readers have been quite taken with the character of Geordie King. He certainly suffered during the War—he was almost killed by disease in Gallipoli and gas in France, as well as being wounded on the Somme. How do you explain his resilience and boundless optimism? What role does he fulfill for Jack and Will?
19. What of the romances in the book: Jack and Deirdre? Will and Sophia? Geordie and Lena? How do they differ? Is there a common thread running through them, too?
20. Finally, a show of hands. Who cried—or at least got a little choked up—while reading this book? Which scenes moved you the most? Which character's fate would you say was the most tragic? The most poignant? The most harrowing? What will you remember most about *None of Us the Same*?