

True Reconciliation by Jody Wilson-Raybould - Book club questions

For nonfiction, we have four layers of discussion:

- 1) the book's subject matter,
- 2) the author's analysis of it (what they say about it),
- 3) the author's rhetoric (how effectively/persuasively they write about it)
- 4) our personal thoughts on each of these.

Subject matter:

- What does Wilson-Raybould mean by "True Reconciliation"?
- What importance does Reconciliation have to Canada?

Analysis:

- Wilson-Raybould answers settlers' question "What can I do for Reconciliation?" with three verbs: Learn, Understand, and Act. What does she mean by these?
- In Learn, What are siloed stories? How has Canadian racism and legislation harmed Indigenous peoples?
- In Understand, how did settlers' worldview affect their actions towards of land, resources, and Indigenous peoples? How do Indigenous worldviews differ from colonial? What are the two "tracks" of governments? How does Indigenous land ownership differ from colonial?
- In Act, What is "performative" reconciliation? What are her examples of actions that challenge, elevate, and advance? What are in-betweeners?

Rhetoric

- What is her personal experience/perspective, who is her audience, and what is her goal in writing this book?
- Does she fully answer the question, "What can I do?"
- Is her writing telling her story effectively and persuasively?
- How does her book compare to others on this subject?

Personal takeaways:

- What "stays" with you from this book?
- Any information that surprised you or spurred any new thoughts?
- Any factors you feel she omitted, underplayed, or over-emphasized?
- What actions do you/would you take towards reconciliation?
- How do you think change happens in a society? What impedes change?
- Can a book club be an act of reconciliation?