The Quiet Season

Remembering Country Winters

Discussion Questions

Jerry Apps
The Quiet Season presents rural Wisconsin winters as a time of reflection, planning ahead for the future, and reconnecting with family. How do the winters of today compare? Is winter still a “quiet season?”

Describe Jerry’s writing style. What do you like and dislike about it?

What about Jerry’s recollections of Wisconsin winters most surprised you and why?

What have you learned after reading The Quiet Season? Has it broadened your knowledge of what life in Wisconsin was like during the 1930s and 1940s?

Did a particular passage stand out to you most and why?
Jerry’s memories of the past give us a glimpse of what life was like during a simpler time. What memories of your past bring up the same feelings?

Which adjective do you think best describes life during Wisconsin winters? What parts of the book support this?

Jerry wrote “I realize these experiences left an indelible mark on me and made me who I am today.” After reading the book, what aspects of rural Wisconsin life had the most influence on Jerry?

Many chapters in the book are focused on food—from deer hunting and ice fishing to holiday meals and recipes. How have these rituals/traditions remained the same, and how are they different today?