

book club questions

TOM LAKE

Did you read or watch *Our Town* too?

If so, did you draw any comparisons between *Our Town* and [Tom Lake](#)?

Of all plays, why do you think Patchett chose *Our Town* for [Tom Lake](#)?

If you've read Ann Patchett before, how did [Tom Lake](#) stack up for you?

Discuss the format by which you read [Tom Lake](#).

Discuss the significance of the cherry farm setting.

Discuss the timing of COVID-19 in [Tom Lake](#).

Did you identify most with any of the three daughters?

[Tom Lake](#) was decidedly not a "sliding doors" (What if?) type of novel. Why do you think Patchett made this choice and made it so clear to the reader?

Who would you cast in a movie adaptation?

Did the "story within a story" work for you?

Discuss any significance of the age difference between Lara and Duke.

What attracted Lara and Duke to each other?

Why did Lara end up with Joe?

Why did [Tom Lake](#) remain so memorable to the characters?

Describe Lara's career path and how it, and she, changed over time.

Why does Lara tell her life story beyond that of her romantic relationship to her daughters?

Why does Lara keep certain parts of the story to herself?

How does Lara view the past?

How does Lara view the present?

Describe the reactions of Lara's three daughters to her story.

How may this story differ from another character's perspective?

Describe Lara's view of motherhood.

Discuss Lara's life view and what the reader can take from it.

Did each character "end up" the way you expected?