

# Discussion Questions for AEGOLIUS CREEK

1. Which character did you most relate to, and why?
2. The family is still dealing with the loss of the mother, Marlene. How does their collective and individual grief influence their choices and interactions throughout the story?
3. Don Karlsson is described as a character readers will both dislike and root for. What were his motivations, and were you ultimately sympathetic to his fight to preserve his way of life?
4. Were you satisfied with the novel's ending? How do you envision the future for the Karlsson family and their community after the conclusion?
5. The Oregon forest setting emerges as a character, a symbol for nature's power. How did the author use the setting to enhance the story's themes and atmosphere?
6. Why is Don so tied to his land and his trees? Do you think that land ownership is an important right? Why or why not?
7. The three estranged siblings—Billy, Stacy, and Zeke—each take a different stance regarding their father's conflict. How did their individual experiences and careers (local, attorney, environmentalist) shape their perspectives and actions?
8. The discovery of an endangered species of vole on Don Karlsson's property is the central conflict. Do you think the author successfully presents the various competing interests—local businesses, environmentalists, and the family—in a balanced way?
9. How relevant are the events in the book to current issues surrounding land use and environmental conservation? Did the book change your opinion on these topics at all?
10. What are some symbols in the novel, and what do they represent?