

# Will Poole's Island

by Tim Weed

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## **Discussion Guide**

1. How does the worldview of the English characters in the book differ from the Indian worldview? In what ways are they similar? How is our own worldview different from theirs?

2. Is there anything about this book that has caused you to see the birth of the nation of America differently than you had before? In what ways does the background of this story differ from the stories we have traditionally told ourselves about Plymouth Rock and the first Thanksgiving?

3. How do you interpret Will's dreams of flying? What is his deepest desire, do you think? In what ways does he act on this desire, and in the end does he achieve it?

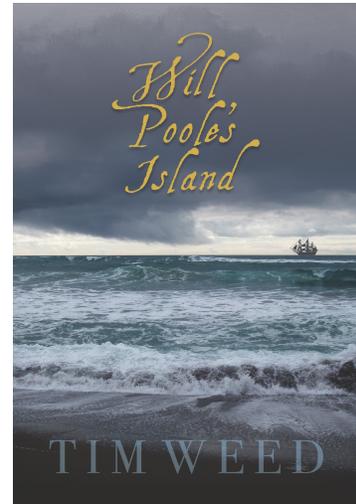
4. Squamiset speaks of a journey to Sowanniu, home of the Bringer of Seeds. What does this place represent in the book? Do you think he make it there in the end?

5. Soon after the fugitives arrive on the island, Will gets very sick. What happens to him during this illness, and why is it important? How is this experience related to his later experience at the pond with the golden-eyed duck?

6. To different degrees, Squamiset and Will both possess something called The Sight. Is such a thing possible in the real world, do you think? Have you ever had the feeling that you could see the future, or something that was going on in the world somewhere other than where your physical body was located?

7. At one point on their journey, Will is amazed that Squamiset and Natoncks are able to catch trout with a duck feather. "The trout see what they want to see," Squamiset explains. "In this respect, trout are much like people." What does he mean by this? Do you agree? How is Squamiset able to use this human tendency?

8. What role does the osprey play in the story? Are there other figures in literature that play a similar role?



9. What was your reaction to the end of the story? Is it a happy ending, do you think? Do you wish it had been?

10. Do you think the quest for Sowanniu is something worth pursuing in our modern age? Are healing and harmony possible despite a history of pain and violence? Is there anything in the book that gives you hope for the future?

### **About the Author**

WILL POOLE'S ISLAND is Tim Weed's first novel. His short fiction has appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Everywhere Stories: Short Fiction from a Small Planet*, and many other journals and anthologies. He is the winner of a Writer's Digest Popular Fiction Award and a Best Travel Writing Solas Award, and his collected stories have been shortlisted for the New Rivers Press Many Voices Project, the Autumn House Fiction Prize, and the Lewis-Clark Press Discovery Award. Based in Vermont and Nantucket, Tim is a lecturer in the MFA Writing program at Western Connecticut State University and a featured expert for National Geographic Expeditions in Cuba, Spain, and Patagonia. Read more at [the author's official website \(www.timweed.net\)](http://www.timweed.net).

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