



**Aviaq Johnston** is a young Inuk author from Igloodik, Nunavut. Her debut novel *Those Who Run in the Sky* was released in the spring of 2017. In 2014, she won first place in the Indigenous Arts and Stories competition for her short story “Tarnikuluk,” which also earned her a Governor General’s History Award. Aviaq is a graduate of Nunavut Sivuniksavut, and she has a diploma in social service work from Canadore College. Aviaq loves to travel and has lived in Australia and Vietnam. She spends most of her time reading, writing, studying, and procrastinating. She lives in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

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# Leave Our Bones Where They Lay

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The opening paragraph of the collection describes the ruggedness of the North. Its landscape and weather can be treacherous. How might living in this challenging landscape be reflected in the characters and their stories?
2. In Chapter III, Kipik says that Jupi failed his sons. Do you think he did? In what ways does society play a role? In what ways does generational trauma take hold of characters in this collection?
3. This book takes on the form of interconnected short stories. Why do you think this form was chosen to tell the tale(s)? Stories are not only the form of the book, but also a major theme. What is the significance of storytelling to the characters?
4. This book includes an Inuktitut glossary. What do you think about the decision to include Inuktitut words in the book? What role does language, and learning Indigenous languages, play in the stories? What is the significance of this to characters like Taisy (“Mussels and Qunguliq”) and Maati, or even Tumasi (“Grumpy Old Man”)?
5. The story “Welcome to Maktaaq City” centres around women. What aspects of the collection speak to the roles of women versus men?
6. The lighting of the *qulliq* is considered a sacred duty. But what do Maati and Jupi gain from it? Do they gain more than they sacrifice?
7. While there are many serious themes in the book, the author also instills humour. What do you think of the moments of levity?

