



**NANCY:** I loved this book! Kingsolver artfully weaves several threads into her main story, Codi's journey into healing and fulfillment. The Native American philosophy and legacy in the American West, the homemakers fighting for the health of the river and orchards on which their economy depends, and an American-supported war against the people of Nicaragua provide a meaningful backdrop to a love story and the path which unfolds.



**ABIGAIL:** Loved the old ladies mobilizing against the corporation degrading their river and killing their orchards! What a creative, fun-loving approach. Selling Peacock Pinatas, with real feathers, made out of recycled materials. They made me laugh and cheer. Leave it to the women to save the day!



**PRISCILLA:** Oh my. I'm not sure what to say about this book. I couldn't relate to most of the characters. Where was Jesus? I'm afraid this wasn't a Christian story, ladies. What's the background of this author?



**KATHARINE:** Oh, Priscilla. Where was Jesus in this story? How about Loyd's way of loving, the passion of the sister serving the people in Nicaragua, the town's love of Codi, the ladies loving the town people enough to save the river, even Homer serving as a doctor. Also, this is a good book for classes studying Native Americans and perhaps for students considering ways to overcome environmental issues and address US foreign policy.



**JANE:** I want to cheer on those homemaker entrepreneurs! Their folk art pinatas raised the money to save their town. See what capitalism can do to forward the cause of humanity! And I also cheered on Codi, a humble hero who started the whole process. Here's to the power of women!



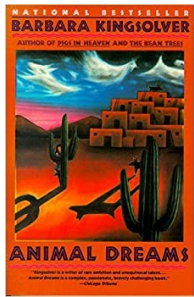
**MOLLY:** I appreciated the way Kingsolver lifts up the Native American approach to life, religion, humility and celebration. She didn't come right out and say it, but I think she was trying to provide a contrast to some of our Western ways of thinking that are more self-centered.



**SALLIE:** A good example of what can happen to children when their parents are stuck in grief and also trying too hard to change the family's narrative in the history of the ancestors. Homer tried hard to make a good life for his daughters and realized in the end all the mistakes he made. Perhaps this book teaches what not to do!



# Discussion Guide



## About the Book

Title: Animal Dreams

Author: Barbara Kingsolver

Published: HarperCollins: 1990

Website: Kingsolver.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kingsolverbooks/>

## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. What was Codi's storyline in this book?
3. What specific issues did Codi struggle over and how were they resolved?
4. Why did her sister go to Nicaragua? What was the point of including this in the book?
5. What did you learn about Native American beliefs, rituals and housing patterns in this book? Did anything here surprise you? Explain.
6. Homer seemed like a tragic figure. What legacy did he fight throughout his life? What mistakes did he make?
7. If you were to write your own autobiography, what would be your themes and resolutions?
8. What did the title of the book "Animal Dreams" mean and what did that have to do with the story?
9. What did you think of the homemakers organizing to save the town? What creative strategies could we implement to overcome our current environmental challenges?
10. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?