

**Discussion Topics for
Solstice Magic by Jean Stringam**

- What is the basis for the conflict between Zo and her Baba Dolia? What is the basis for their reconciliation?
- Zo's father and his mother, Baba Dolia, have experienced deep hurt over the years. How has that altered their ability to understand each other?
- Where Perun (the Caucasian Ovcharka) is concerned, how is it that so many characters feel opposite things about him at the same time?
- In stories of magical realism, the magical events happen right alongside real life. Has there been a time in your life when events you can't explain have occurred? Do you think it could ever happen?
- Rabbit hopping clubs have become an international phenomenon. Is there a club where you live? What would you need to do to start one?
- Where would you go in your area to watch a stock dog trial? What dogs are used? What are the rules?
- Where would you go to watch a rodeo in your area? How do you feel about rodeo as a sport? How is it scored? What is the care for the animal athletes?
- People tend to connect with the uniqueness of another culture first through their food, arts, customs, and folk tales. Are there other ways to experience diversity?
- The earliest Ukrainian immigrants arrived in Alberta during late 1891 to 1892 under trying circumstances. Can you describe the life they faced upon arrival? Explore some of the contributions they have brought to Alberta. Are there any people of Ukrainian descent living near you?
- The Calgary Stampede and Exhibition celebrated its centennial year in July 2012. What are some of the changes in events and rules that have occurred since it began in 1912?
- Jean Stringam writes songs for the characters she creates. You can find a copy of the sheet music for Susie's lonesome song, "Safe at Home Again," at the end of the novel. For a downloadable version go to <http://www.sheetmusicplus.com/publishers/Jean-Stringam/1746>. You can also hear a recorded version on YouTube.