

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?
- 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. Explore some of these.
- What is your preferred way to experience diversity? How has diversity contributed meaning to your life?
- You may enjoy visiting the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village near Elk Island National Park, 25 minutes east of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Visit their web page for dates and times. <http://www.history.alberta.ca/ukrainianvillage/>

For those who'd like to do a little research:

- The earliest Ukrainian immigrants arrived in Alberta during late 1891 to 1892 under trying circumstances. After consulting a good history or two, discuss the life they faced upon arrival.
- Explore some of the contributions Ukrainians have brought to Alberta. What qualities did they bring with them from the old country that contributed to their success in the new?
- 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?