

*the* GLOSS  
GO AS A RIVER  
SHELLEY READ

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1. Did you enjoy the book? Rate it from 1 - 5.
2. The presence of water in a story is usually symbolic. How do you think the river is symbolic in here? Do you notice other symbolism in the story?
3. Which of Victoria's strengths do you most admire? What character traits do you share with Victoria?
4. How often and in what ways do you think a woman's identity is chosen for her? Who or what might shape a woman's identity? Family? Culture? Financial Resources? Life Circumstances?
5. Farmers and others in the valley are displaced by the dam project. In what other ways, is the theme of displacement evident in the story?
6. Victoria finds her escape in the mountains. How safe or comfortable do you feel in the wilderness? Do you feel that this plan of Victoria's is wise? What other options might she have had? What would you have done in her circumstances?
7. In what ways do you think the creation of Wil's character adds another layer of depth to the story? Why does the author write him with this specific cultural identity? In what ways are his heritage and cultural experiences important to the story?
8. The author of *Go as a River* establishes a strong sense of place through vivid descriptive and sensory details. Which part of Victoria's environment did you experience most vividly in your imagination?
9. What do you appreciate about Zelda's character? Does the theme of "women supporting women" resonate with you? How does Zelda's support and encouragement make a difference for Victoria? Have you experienced support from women that has encouraged you or changed your life?
10. One of the ways the theme of grief is explored in this story is through leaving and then revisiting your roots. Do you still live where you grew up? If you've moved away, how often do you visit your roots? Can you identify one specific and special place that defines roots for you?
11. What do you think of the title? How do you think it fits the themes of the story? In what way is a peach used as a symbol or metaphor in this coming-of-age story?