

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Note: None of these questions has a “right answer.” They are suggestions of things you might think about or talk over with someone else who has read *Diamond Willow*.

1. Do you think Willow is lonely? Is being lonely the same as being alone?
2. Is having a pet just as good as having a person-friend?
3. What does Willow discover that makes it easier for her to make new friends?
4. Have you ever experienced the death of someone who loves you? If so, do you sometimes feel like their love for you is still somewhere in the world, as expressed by the animals in *Diamond Willow*?

W R I T I N G I D E A S



1. Try writing a diamond-shaped poem of your own. Can you put a “hidden message” inside it?
2. Observe an animal without writing anything down. Pay close attention to what sounds it makes, how it moves, what it eats, how it relates to other animals, and how it relates to people. Then write a story or poem from the point of view of the animal. Give it to someone to read, without naming the animal, and see if they can figure out “who” is speaking.?
3. Make your own rules for a poem and see how hard it is to follow them. If it doesn’t lead you to discover something fun or interesting, try a different rule.

Examples:

- A poem of three stanzas, four lines each, that has a different color in each stanza.
- A poem shaped like a circle, square, triangle, or rectangle.
- A poem, at least ten lines long, that doesn’t say anything true.