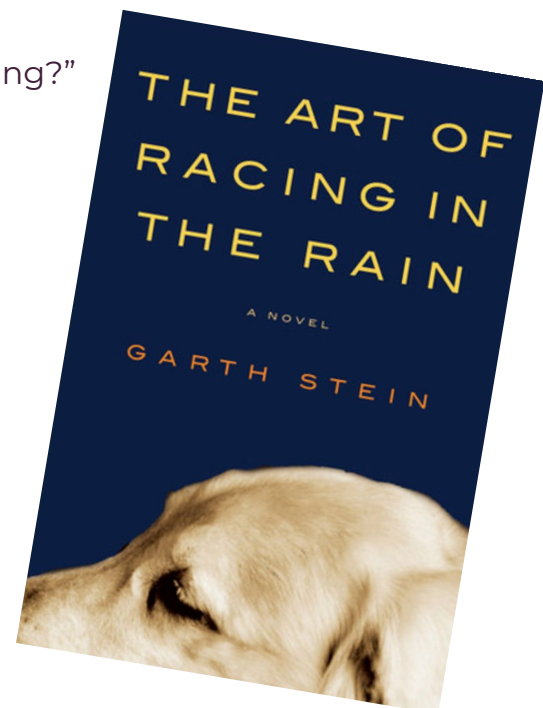


# Discussion Guide

## THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN by Garth Stein



- Do you find yourself looking at your own dog differently after reading this novel?
- Do you think dogs or other animals can really understand humans and have the desire to communicate with them?
- What was your favorite scene in the novel?
- Discuss Enzo's more human characteristics:
  - His feelings after Eve died (and his animal reaction of chasing and eating the squirrel)
  - Advising people to learn to listen
- What did you think of Enzo's description of communication, "...there are so many moving parts. There's presentation and there's interpretation and they're so dependent on each other it makes things very difficult." Was this a good analysis?
- What did you think about Enzo's analysis of his death? He said about Denny, "He needs me to free him to be brilliant."
- The author wrote, "A true hero is flawed. The true test of a champion is not whether he can triumph, but whether he can overcome obstacles – preferably of his own making – in order to triumph." Do you agree? What do you think about the obstacles "being of his own making?" Can you name anyone who you think is a hero? Does he or she fit this description?
- One of Denny's favorite statements was "...that which we manifest is before us." What did he mean? Do you agree?
- The author stated that women and dogs feel pain the same ("tap directly into the pain") whereas men "are all filters and deflectors and timed release." Is this an accurate description? Do you think there is a difference in how men, women and dogs experience pain?
- There were many comments in the book about life in general. What comparisons were made between driving a race car and life? Can you add others?



Sources: [www.garthstein.com](http://www.garthstein.com); [readtoenrich.blogspot.com](http://readtoenrich.blogspot.com)

*Creating a Community Through the Shared Experience of Reading*