

# OH!

## A MYSTERY OF MONO NO AWARE

TODD SHIMODA is available for book club events in person if possible, or by phone, email or chat.

### Book Club Questions

SOME OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CONTAIN SPOILERS. REVIEW THEM AFTER READING THE NOVEL.

1. What are the reasons behind Zack's motivation for going to Japan?
2. Why is Zack's relationship with Carine unusual?
3. Joe Creed is Zack's foil in many ways. What are these ways and how does Zack really feel about Joe?
4. Zack and his fellow teacher Kumiko become very close. What do they see in each other?
5. How does Zack and Kumiko's relationship affect their lives?
6. Professor Imai is a mysterious character and Zack goes along with his research without questioning it too much. What is Zack's motive for his ready compliance?
7. What are the real reasons behind the professor's petty tasks?
8. Why does the "mama-san" of the professor's favorite bar have such a strong hold on the professor?
9. The concept of mono no aware is an important part of the novel. What does it mean to you?
10. There are several "exhibits" of text, art and photographs in the book. What is their purpose?
11. What was the effect on Zack when he found out about his grandfather's life in Japan?
12. Why does Zack try to find out about the suicide victims? What does he discover about them?
13. What role in the story did the performance artists play?
14. What are the key clues that help Zack in his search for the professor's missing daughter?
15. Why did the daughter run away?
16. The daughter has created a private although seemingly lonely life. But is she happy and would she have been happier staying at home?
17. Why does Zack join the suicide club and what were the conditions for him joining?
18. What did Zack feel in the end?
19. What did the professor realize in the end?
20. Which of the threads of the story does the ending tie up? Which are left more ambiguous?