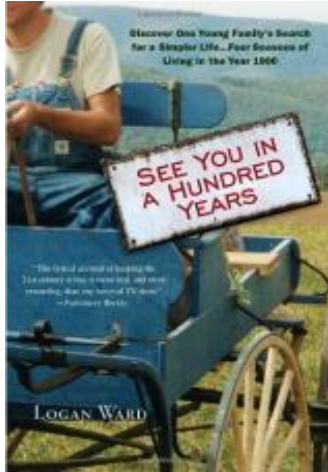


# See You in a Hundred Years: One Young Family's Search for a Simpler Life

by Logan Ward



## About the Book

Burned out by his frantic and stressful New York City life, writer Logan Ward devised an escape from the hectic pace: he and his family would move to their native South and live on a farm—and they would live there as if it were the year 1900. Through four seasons, the Wards traded in every modern convenience and lived entirely off the land, bolstered by the kindness of their neighbors and a rare strike of luck. In **See You in a Hundred Years**, Ward recounts his family's adventure: from meeting the incredulous look of the workman sent to disconnect the electricity and figuring out how to harness his ornery mare, to learning the true meaning of self-reliance and discovering the myriad joys of "the simple life."

*Publishers Weekly* says of **See You in a Hundred Years**, "This lyrical account of keeping the 21st century at bay is more real, and more rewarding, than any survival TV show," and the questions below are designed to assist your book group's discussion of this lively memoir.

## Discussion Guide

1. What did you think of Logan's plan to reinvent his family's life as that of a 1900s dirt farmer? Did you expect that his experiment would be a success? More, that he would emerge being glad he did it?
2. The book opens with two quotations, one from Wendell Berry and the other from Ian Frazier. Discuss what each means in the context of Logan Ward's story. Why do you think he chose these particular quotes?

3. As much as **See You in a Hundred Years** is a story of an adventure, it's also an intimate portrait of a marriage. How are Logan and his wife Heather alike and different? Did you think that marriage would survive all the upheaval associated with their project?
4. "Living in the wealthiest city in the wealthiest nation at the wealthiest moment in history, Heather and I should be happy. We aren't," (page 3). What do you think was at the heart of Logan and Heather's unhappiness in New York?
5. What modern convenience or object could you easily live without? What facet of modern life could you never give up?
6. The author's descriptions of life on his farm are rich and evocative, from tilling the soil in his garden and harvesting its bounty in the fall, to the life (and death) cycle of a farm. Which images or scenes stood out for you? Why?
7. Before reading **See You in a Hundred Years**, did you know anything about the life of a 1900s dirt farmer? What did you learn? Could you be a farmer?
8. In "Old Years Eve," the author asks himself whether he's embarking on this adventure as a way to escape reality. What do you think? Was he running away from real life in some way?
9. If you had the opportunity to go back in time, which era would you choose to live in, and where would you go? What about the period and place you chose makes it appealing to you?
10. The Wards were living on the farm when the September 11th attacks took place. What do you think of Logan's observation that the attacks "helped crystallize the importance of our 1900 project" (page 138).
11. In "Back to the Future," Logan poses this question to a friend: "Why should we care about the past?" (page 228) How would you answer this question?
12. Consider what Logan writes in the book's afterword, as he describes his sadness about leaving the farm for good: "To survive in this world you have to leave some of the past behind." Do you agree with this sentiment?
13. Having read **See You in One Hundred Years**, are you inspired to try an experiment like the Wards? What would it be?

## Author Bio

Logan Ward has written for many magazines, including *National Geographic Adventure*, *Men's Journal*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Southern Accents*, and *Cottage Living*. He lives with his wife, Heather, and their children, Luther and Eliot, in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

## Critical Praise

"Ward has crafted a thoughtful, sweet-natured book—one to read s-l-o-w-l-y, by candlelight if possible, with a still mind

and a settled heart."

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