

# The Book: *Peace Like a River*

One of *Time* magazine's top-five novels of 2001 and a *New York Times* bestseller, *Peace Like a River* is set in the Minnesota countryside and North Dakota Badlands of the early 1960s. A moving and engrossing story about one family's quest to retrieve its most wayward member, the book has been described as a heroic quest, a tragedy, a love story, and a haunting meditation on the possibility of magic in the everyday world.

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## The Author: Leif Enger

Leif Enger was raised in Osakis, Minnesota, and attended Moorhead State University. He worked as a reporter and producer for Minnesota Public Radio for 16 years before selling his debut novel, *Peace Like a River*. His second novel, *So Brave, Young, and Handsome*, was a bestseller in 2008. He also co-wrote five mystery novels with his brother Lin, under the pen name L.L. Enger. Leif lives on a farm near Aitkin, Minnesota, with his wife and two sons.

### Your Discussion:

[Discussion Points for Peace Like A River](#)

[About the Author](#)

[About the Book & Critical Acclaim](#)

[Interview with Leif Enger](#)

### Recipes for Your Meeting:

Book club meetings aren't just about the book. Sharing food and drinks adds to the fun and enhances the discussion. We have some great recipes for all of the delicious foods mentioned in *Peace Like a River*. Try some and impress your guests!

Special thanks to food editor and committee member Nancy Stohs for finding all of the food references in the book, locating appropriate recipes, cooking them, photographing them and tasting them for us.

[Villing](#)

[Fluffy Family-Pleasing Pancakes](#)

[Red Potato Chowder with Northern Pike](#)

[Court-Day Breakfast–Salmon & Biscuits](#)

[Court-Day Peach Pie](#)

[Bob-Andy Pie](#)

[Pecan Pie](#)

[August and Birdie's Comfort Food Supper](#) (Creamed Chicken and Nut Bread)

[Herb Roasted Chicken](#) (Roxanna's Stranded-by-a-Blizzard Feast)

[Beef Stew with Pearl Onions](#) (Dutch Oven Bonanza)

[Brown Bear in a Cherry Orchard](#)

[Brown-Sugar-Glazed Sweet Potatoes with Sausages](#)

[Stash-in-your-Pocket Ginger Snaps](#)

[Mrs. Enger's Cinnamon Rolls](#)

## **Writing Contest: Write a Poem that Tells a Story.**

That was the prompt for the 2016 Tosa's All-City Read Writing Contest, and Tosans did not disappoint! There were 49 entries in four age categories. Congratulations to our winners below!

### **Adult (18+)**

First prize (\$100) Daniel McCollum — [The Tree Splitter: The Song of Dietrich](#)

Second prize (\$50) John Kaufman — [The Pioneer](#)

### **High School**

First prize (\$75) Clare Conteh-Morgan — [The Arrow](#)

### **Grades 6-8**

First prize: (\$50) Sylvi Teich — [One](#)

Second prize (\$25) Jack Kluth — [Gone](#)

### **Grades 3-5**

First prize: (\$25) Jordan Nash — [The Wave](#)

Second prize (\$15) Annabelle Wilson — [Alone in the House](#)

### **Honorable Mention:**

Kate Pluta — [The Wind in The Trees](#)

Kahlil Albergottie — [Mouse](#)

Kahlil Albergottie — [Poke' Poem](#)

Cora Vespalec — [One Day](#)

Abby Penegor — [Whoa](#)