

Book Discussion Questions

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Sometimes book clubs would like discussion questions for use when reading and discussing a book. It can help an author to facilitate giving them a questionnaire for their use and to formulate questions for the author should s/he be invited to address the group. Below is just such a set of book discussion questions. It is a good place for a group to start. They can modify it as needed for their applications. The source of this list is unknown.

Book Discussion Questions

- 1.** Overall—how did you **experience the book** while reading it? Were you immediately drawn into the story — or did it take a while? Did the book intrigue, amuse, disturb, alienate, or irritate, you?
- 2.** Do you find the characters **convincing**? Are they believable? Compelling? Are they fully developed as complex, emotional human beings?
- 3.** Which characters do you **admire** or **dislike**? What are their primary characteristics?
- 4.** What **motivates** a given character's actions? Do you think those actions are justified or ethical?
- 5.** Do any characters **grow or change** during the course of the novel? If so, in what way?
- 6.** Who in this book would you most **like to meet**? What would you ask— or say?
- 7.** If you could **insert yourself** as character in the book, what role would you play?
- 8.** Is the **plot well developed**? Is it believable? Do you feel manipulated along the way, or do events unfold naturally?
- 9.** Is the story **plot or character driven**? In other words, does the plot unfold quickly or focus more on characters' inner lives?

10. Consider the **ending**. Did you expect it or were you surprised? Was it forced? Was it neatly wrapped up—too neatly? Or was it unresolved, ending on an ambiguous note?

11. If you could **rewrite the ending**, would you? In other words, was the ending satisfying?

12. Can you **pick out a passage** that strikes you as particularly profound or interesting—or perhaps something that sums up the central dilemma of the book?

13. Does the book **remind you of someone**—a friend, family member, co-worker, boss—or something—an event, problem—in your own life?

14. If you were to **talk to the author**, what would you want to know? (Many authors enjoy talking with book clubs. Contact the publisher to see if you can set up a phone chat or have the author meet with your group.)

15. Have you read the **author's other books**? Can you discern a similarity—in theme, writing style, and structure—between them? Or are they completely different?

16. Have you written in other genres or types of publications?