

# Book club questions that work for any book



## Characters

1. Are the characters likable? What does that mean for the story? Which character do you most relate to?
2. How did the author bring life to the characters?
3. Did the book's characters remind you of another book?
4. Describe the character development. Who did you identify with? Did your opinions about any of the characters change over the course of the novel?
5. How is the protagonist sympathetic or unsympathetic?
6. What motives drive the characters? Do they have a chip on their shoulder, a hidden agenda or a mental health issue?

## Structure

1. The circumstance that sets the book in motion is called the inciting moment. What was the inciting moment of this book?
2. Does the author use language in a way that's different or striking? Do you think the book is well written? What style or "voice" does the author use?
3. What's your favorite quote or passage?
4. What does the title mean?
5. Is there something about the book you don't understand?
6. Does the plot and subplots make sense? Are there any holes or loose ends?
7. How does the structure of the book (flashbacks, varying points of view) affect the story? Why did the author choose to present the story in this way?
8. Does the structure add to or detract from the ideas and themes the author tries to present?
9. What did you learn in the book that you didn't know before?
10. How does the setting affect the theme, characters and plot? Could it have happened anywhere, at anytime? If so, how would the novel have changed?

## Deeper meanings

1. What themes did you notice? Self-discovery? Change of power? Inner versus outer strength?
2. What do you think the author is trying to say to the reader? How did this book touch your life? Can you relate to it on any level?
3. Did you pick up on any symbolism in the story? What do these objects actually mean? How do the characters interact with these objects?
4. What's this book's greatest strength? What made it good (or not so good)? It's biggest weakness?
5. What do you think the author was trying to do with the book? Did he or she do a good job?

## Outside the book

1. What worldview did the author present?
2. Did this book fit into a genre? What conventions of the genre did it follow, and which did it break?
3. What broader social issues does the book address?
4. What do you think happens after the book ends?
5. What choices would we have made differently if we were in the characters' shoes?
6. How does this book rate compared to other books your book club as read?
7. Would the book make a good film?