

Book Club Discussion Questions for Fiction

1. How did you **experience the book**? Were you immediately drawn into the story--or did it take you a while? Did the book intrigue, amuse, disturb, alienate, irritate, or frighten you?
2. Do you find the **characters convincing**? Are they believable? Compelling? Are they fully developed as complex, emotional human beings--or are they one-dimensional?
3. Which characters do you particularly **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 a character in the book, what role would you play? You might be a new character or take the place of an existing one.
8. Is the **plot well-developed**? Is it believable? Do you feel manipulated along the way, or do plot events unfold naturally, organically?
9. Is the story **plot or character driven**? In other words, do events unfold quickly? Or is more time spent developing characters' inner lives? Does it make a difference to your enjoyment?
10. Consider **the ending**. Did you expect it or were you surprised? Was it manipulative? Was it forced? Was it neatly wrapped up--too neatly? Or was the story unresolved, ending on an ambiguous note?
11. If you could **rewrite the ending**, would you? In other words, did you find the ending satisfying? Why or why not.
12. Can you **pick out a passage or section** that strikes you as particularly interesting--or perhaps something that sums up the central dilemma of the book? *** *At this point, please refer to the post-it notes you marked in your books.*
13. Does the book remind you of **your own life**? An event or situation? A person--a friend, family member, boss, co-worker?
14. If you were to **talk with the author**, what would you want to know?
15. Have you read the **author's other books**? Can you discern a similarity—in theme, writing style, structure—between them? Or are they completely different?