

## General Questions for Fiction

Use our general fiction questions to get your book club discussions off to a good start. They're basic but smart.

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**1.** How did you **experience** the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to "get into it"? How did you feel reading it—amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored...?

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**2.** Describe the main **characters**—their personality traits, motivations, inner qualities. Why do they do what they do? Are their actions justified? Do you admire or disapprove of them? Do they remind you of people you know?

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**3.** Do the main **characters change** by the end of the book? Do they grow, or come to learn something about themselves and how the world works?

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**4.** Is the **plot** engaging—does the story interest you? Is this a plot-driven book: a fast-paced page-turner? Or does the story unfold slowly with a focus on character development? Were you surprised by the plot's complications? Or did you find it predictable, even formulaic?

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**5.** Talk about the book's **structure**. Is it a continuous story...or interlocking short stories? Does the time-line more forward chronologically...or back and forth between past and present? Does the author use a single viewpoint or shifting viewpoints? Why might the author have chosen to tell the story the way he or she did—and what difference does it make in the way you read or understand it?

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**6.** What main ideas—**themes**—does the author explore? Don't forget to talk about the title, often a clue to a novel's theme.

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**7.** What **passages** strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of dialog that's funny or poignant...or encapsulates a character? Maybe comments that state the book's thematic concerns?

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**8.** Is the **ending** satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?

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**9.** If you could ask the **author** a question, what would you ask? Have you read other books by the same author? If so how does this book compare. If not, does this book inspire you to read others?

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**10.** Has this novel **changed you**—broadened your perspective? Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world?

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