**[Generic Questions for Fiction](http://www.litlovers.com/run-a-book-club/questions-for-fiction)**

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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...?  **2.** Describe the main **characters**—personality traits, motivations, and inner qualities. • Why do characters do what they do?  • Are their actions justified? • Describe the dynamics between characters (in a    marriage, family, or friendship).  • How has the past shaped their lives?  • Do you admire or disapprove of them?  • Do they remind you of people you know?  **3.** Are the main characters **dynamic**—changing or maturing by the end of the book? Do they learn about themselves, how the world works and their role in it?  **4.** Discuss the **plot**: • Is it engaging—do you find the story interesting? • Is this a plot-driven book—a fast-paced page-turner? • Does the plot unfold slowly with a focus on character? • Were you surprised by complications, twists & turns? • Did you find the plot predictable, even formulaic?  **5.** Talk about the book's **structure**. • Is it a continuous story...or interlocking short stories? • Does the time-line move forward chronologically? • Does time shift back & forth from past to present? • Is there a single viewpoint or shifting viewpoints? • Why might the author have chosen to tell the story    the way he or she did? • What difference does the structure make in the way    you read or understand the book?  **6.** What main ideas—**themes**—does the author explore? (Consider the title, often a clue to a theme.) Does the author use **symbols** to reinforce the main ideas? (See our free LitCourses on both [Symbol](http://www.litlovers.com/litcourse-course9-lecture) and [Theme](http://www.litlovers.com/litcourse-course10-lecture).)  **7.** What **passages** strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of dialog that's funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there's a particular comment that states the book's thematic concerns?  **8.** Is the **ending** satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?  **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?  **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? |