



Universal Book Discussion Questions

Here are some questions that work well as starting points for your book discussions.

General:

- What did you enjoy about this book?
- What else have you read that is like this book?
- What are some of the major themes of this book?
- What do you think the author was trying to accomplish with this novel?
- Who was your favorite character? What did you like best about them?
- What are the characters trying to do, and what will they do to make it happen?
- At the end of the book, do you feel hope for the characters?
- Have you ever experienced anything like the situations in this novel?
- Did you feel this book moved quickly, or did it drag? Why?
- How did you feel about the main character(s)?
- What are the most important relationships in the book?
- What actions make characters memorable?
- What are the most revealing scenes?
- What did you think of the way the writer told the story? (First person, third person, graphic novel, poetry, prose, epistle, etc.)
- Do you think the story was believable? What about the characters?
- What did you like best about the book? What was your least favorite part?
- Do you identify with one or more of the characters?
- Did you like the main character(s)? Would you like to have them as a friend?
- What do you think was the most important part of the story and why?
- Did the title suit the story? What would you have called it?
- Look at the book cover. Does it do a good job of making the book look interesting or capturing the feeling of the story?
- Were the descriptions adequate for you to picture what was happening?
- Were there any words or parts of the story you didn't understand?
- Were you surprised by the ending? If you could change it, would you, and how?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?
- What did you learn from this book?
- What did you think about the additional information – dedication, author bio, etc.?



For Historical Fiction:

- How are the events in this book similar or different to things that happen today?
- What did you notice about the story that would give you a clue about the time in which it was set (aside from outright mentioning the date)?
- What has changed since the time of the story? What facts or technology do we know now that they didn't have then? How would these change the story?
- What would be different if this story took place in today's time?
- What do you think the events of this story would look like if it was set in the future?

For Graphic Novels:

- How do the images and text work together to communicate the story?
- Could this story be as meaningful if it was written in a different format?
- How, if at all, do characters change through the story? What does the author/artist do to show these changes?
- Why do you think the author/artist chose to tell this story in graphic novel format?
- How do you think the pictures affected your impression of the characters?
- Why do you think some panels are different sizes in the book? Are there any that stick out in your mind for size, placement, or content?
- Do you think any other books would have been good graphic novels?

For Non-Fiction:

- What are some things you have learned from reading this book?
- Did the author present the information in an interesting way? Did it feel meaningful, or what could they have done to make it meaningful?
- Is the information delivered clearly, and do you feel like you can trust this book as a source of information? Why or why not?
- Has your opinion changed about the subject of this book? Why or why not?
- Compare this book to a school textbook. What are some of the similarities and differences?



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