

Question Ideas For Leading a Great Book Discussion

by Christy Hissong

- If you're facilitating the discussion, prepare a list of 20 questions in advance.
- Sometimes it's useful to begin a discussion by asking for volunteers to narrate the story from the beginning, changing narrators every few minutes. Invariably someone will disagree with another person's "take" and your discussion will be off and running!
- How did the author draw the characters - with a full description or did a picture gradually emerge from details? Did the characters seem real and why? Did you identify with them and if so, how so? How did the author make you care about the characters and outcome? If not, why not?
- Why do you think the author set the book in that particular location? Did you learn anything new from being there?
- What drew you into the book and made you keep reading?
- What did you think of the author's use of language? How did it affect your reading or enjoyment of the book? Are there any passages of special beauty or effectiveness that you'd like to highlight?
- Was the author making a particular point in the story? How was your thinking affected?
- If this was a book that will stay with you a while, why?

