

Novel Discussion Guide for Parents

Encourage critical thinking and support your learner's literacy development by asking questions before, during, and after reading. Here are some questions you can ask your reader to engage them in a book discussion.

Before reading:

- Why did you select this book?
- What do you think this book is going to be about?
- Does this book remind you of anything else you've already read?

During reading:

- What's happened in the story so far?
- What is the most important thing that has happened so far?
- How would you have handled that situation?
- Who are the main characters? What do they want to accomplish or achieve?
- What is the major conflict in the story?
- Who or what is the antagonist in the story?
- Do any of the characters remind you of someone else, either in fiction or real life?
- If you could be friends with any of the characters in the book, who would it be, and why?
- How are the main characters alike and different?
- When and where does the story take place? Would you want to live there or visit?
- What is the importance of the setting? How would the story be different if it happened in another place or time?
- Does the setting remind you of any other books or movies, or even a place you have visited?
- How do you think the story will end? What makes you think that?
- Have you noticed any clues or hints in the story about what might happen later?

After reading:

- Did you like the book? What were your favorite and least favorite parts?
- What were the most important parts of the story? Why were they so important to the story?
- Did this story remind you of anything? Other books/movies/TV shows/games?
- How did you feel while reading this book?
- Was there anything surprising that happened in the book?
- Was the ending satisfying? Why or why not?
- Are there any questions the author left unanswered?
- If you could rewrite the ending, what changes would you make?
- What do you think the author wants you to take away from this story?
- Is there a sequel to this book? What do you think might happen in the next one?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? What would you tell them about it?
- What about this book is going to stick with you? What will you remember most?