

Discussion prompts for the chairperson

Suggestions for discussions and reading club course

How should you get started with a discussion about the book?

- Let one member of the group be responsible for making a presentation of the book based on reviews, author biographies, an analysis of the book, etc.
- Change the group's chairperson from time to time
- Start with a quick round where everyone can give their first immediate experiences of the book

Suggestions for questions that could form discussion points

- What genre is it?
- The book's theme. What is the book about
 - subject
 - issues (how do they emerge, what are the central issues)
 - locations / environments described in the text
- Author
Why has the author chosen this topic?
 - motivation / aims
 - background
 - have you read other books by the author, and how should this book be positioned amongst others in the author's canon?
 - does this book remind you of any other books that you have read?
 - have other authors written anything similar?
- What do you think about the language?
 - difficulty
 - is the book well written. And why / why not? Give examples.
- Personal characteristics (main character, secondary characters)
 - how do you find the characters (trustworthy, sympathetic, etc.)
 - the characters' roles in the novel
 - the relationships between the characters
- What is the author's message?
 - the essence of the book, the conclusion
- How do you relate to the book?
 - agree, disagree
 - positively, negatively
- What kind of experience did the book give you?
 - excitement, joy, irritation, anger, etc.