

## Discussion Questions to Use for Book Clubs

Can be used with Jenga as well

### **Initial group get-to-know-you:**

- How do you feel about reading?
- Favorite book you have ever read?
- Where do you like to read?
- Worst book you have ever read?
- What is your favorite author or genre to read?
- Do you read a book page-by-page or skip to the end to see what happens?
- What was a good read-aloud you have heard?
- When have book clubs worked for you?
- When have book club discussions not worked?
- If you wrote a book, what type of book will it be?
- How much do you like to speak in discussions?
- What is your hope for this book club group?
- What do you think the book will be about?
- Why did you choose this book?

### **1st-week discussion questions:**

#### ☐ **In the beginning:**

- ☐ Where are we and when are we?
- ☐ Who are our main characters versus the side characters?
- ☐ Pick a character and describe them, what do we know about them as a person?
- ☐ Pick a character and make long-term predictions on how they will change

#### ☐ **Changes:**

- ☐ Focusing on your main characters, how have they changed as a person?
- ☐ What does the future hold for your main characters?
- ☐ How does your main character break the expectations/assumptions about them and who they should be for their world?
- ☐ How do the other characters in the novel react to your main character's changes?

#### ☐ **Power:**

- ☐ Who holds the power in your book?
- ☐ How does that power balance impact the different characters?
- ☐ How has the power balance changed?
- ☐ How do others react to power changes (side characters, those in power, the main character(s))?

☐ **Archetypes:**

- ☐ What are the archetypes present in your book and how can we use that to predict their behavior long-term?
- ☐ What might be problematic with their archetype designation?
- ☐ Pick a character - Do they break the mold or stay with their designation?

☐ **Symbols:** What are potential symbols in your book and what do they mean?

☐ **Theme:**

- ☐ What are some of the thematic concepts in your book and what are the scenes, events, and dialogue that highlight these important thematic concepts?
- ☐ What is a potential thematic statement for your book?

☐ **Wealth:**

- ☐ How have wealth or concerns about money affected the characters in your book?
- ☐ How does access to money or lack of affect your characters and the decisions they make?

☐ **Predictions:**

- ☐ What are short-term predictions for your book? What do you base these on?
- ☐ What are long-term predictions? What do you base these on?

☐ **If you are reading multiple books:**

- ☐ Which themes show up across your books?
- ☐ What are the connections between your books?

☐ **Other:** What are other questions you can discuss this week?

**2nd-week discussion questions (Note, you can use any of the ones from above as well):**

☐ **Setting:**

- ☐ How does the setting impact the story?
- ☐ How does the setting impact the characters?
- ☐ Does the setting play an important role or is it just a background - what do you base your answer on?

☐ **Changes:**

- ☐ How have the actions of a character begun to change the setting of your novel or the customs/rules/societal expectations?
- ☐ How are those changes affecting the greater world of your novel?
- ☐ How do the other characters in the novel react to these changes?

☐ **Power:**

- ☐ Who holds the power now in your book and how is it impacting the events?
- ☐ How has the power balance changed?
- ☐ Will the power change further - yes or no? How might it change?

☐ **Archetypes:**

- ☐ What are the archetypes present in your book and how can we use that to predict their behavior long-term?
- ☐ How do some characters defy the archetypes?

- ☐ How do archetypes in your book show up in our society?
- ☐ **Turning Points:**
  - ☐ What are some of the turning points in your book?
  - ☐ How do your identified turning points affect the actions and events?
  - ☐ How do your identified turning points tie in with potential themes?
- ☐ **Symbols:** What are potential symbols in your book and what do they mean?
- ☐ **Obstacles:**
  - ☐ What are personal obstacles your main character faces?
  - ☐ What are systemic obstacles your main character faces?
  - ☐ What needs to change in order for the obstacles to be overcome, can they be?
- ☐ **Theme:**
  - ☐ What are some of the themes in your book and what are the scenes, events, and dialogue that highlight these important themes?
  - ☐ How do you connect with the author's theme - can you relate to it, if yes, how, if no, why not?
- ☐ **Rules:**
  - ☐ What are the rules of your book's society - how do good citizens act?
  - ☐ If the rules are like our world - then what are those hidden or not-so-hidden rules?
  - ☐ How does your main character follow or break those rules? How do their actions impact them?
- ☐ **If you are reading multiple books:**
  - ☐ Which themes show up across your books?
  - ☐ What are the connections between your books?
- ☐ **Wealth:** How have wealth or concerns about money affected the characters in your book?
- ☐ **Other:** What are other questions you can discuss this week?

**3rd-week Discussion Questions: Note, you can also use any of the ones from above)**

- ☐ **Changes:**
  - ☐ Focusing on your main characters, how have they changed as a person from the beginning to now?
  - ☐ What might the future hold for them?
  - ☐ How did they break the expectation for their world?
  - ☐ How do the other characters in the novel react to these changes?
- ☐ **Power:**
  - ☐ How has the power balance changed?
  - ☐ How do others react to power changes (side characters, those in power, the main character(s))?
  - ☐ Have they had a lasting impact on the power of their world?

☐ **Symbols:**

- ☐ What ended up being actual symbols in the book and what did they symbolize?
- ☐ Did the characters discover secrets or choose symbols themselves? Why did they make these choices, and what did the symbols represent?

☐ **Turning Points: Turning Points:**

- ☐ What are some of the turning points in your book?
- ☐ How do your identified turning points affect the actions and events?
- ☐ How do your identified turning points tie in with potential themes?

☐ **Theme:** What was the main thematic statement for your book?

☐ **Wealth:**

- ☐ How have wealth or concerns about money affected the characters in your book?
- ☐ Do characters find happiness or fulfillment in the face of poverty?
- ☐ How does poverty or lack of access to resources create obstacles that prevent them from experiencing the American Dream?

☐ **Author's impact:**

- ☐ How did the book impact you?
- ☐ What do you think the author's purpose was for the story, was it successful?
- ☐ Does the book's impact line up with what you thought the author's purpose was?
- ☐ What did you notice about the writing choices the author made; how did they build interest, develop their characters, use the setting to further the plot?

☐ **Book Club itself:**

- ☐ Was the book you read a good book for discussion?
- ☐ What went well?
- ☐ What did not work well?
- ☐ What would you change in your process if you had to do it again?
- ☐ What are other questions you could discuss?