

Suggested Book Club Questions: Fiction – Short Stories

Plot and Themes

1. Discuss the plots of the various stories. Were the plots believable?
2. What one event was the most critical to each plot?
3. Did the author leave any loose ends?
4. What is the significance of each story's title? How does each title relate to the book?
5. What were some of the major themes of the book as a whole? In other words, what idea(s) or topic(s) were central to this story collection?
6. How well were the themes developed? Give examples.

Setting

1. Discuss the settings of the stories. Were they well done?
2. Did the stories take place in a specific time period and were the author's descriptions of the time periods accurate and moving?
3. Did the settings of the stories effect your enjoyment of them? Why or why not?

Characters

1. Discuss the character's believability. Is the way the characters react to their situations authentic?
2. Did any of the characters change or transform as the stories unfolded? What caused this?
3. Who was your favorite character and why?
4. Who was your least favorite character and why?

Language and Structure

1. Discuss the author's use of language in the stories. Was it highly descriptive? Was it appropriate or did it detract from your enjoyment of the book?
2. Did the language used by the characters properly reflect the setting of each story? Why/why not?
3. Was there a particular paragraph that stood out in your mind as being an exceptional example of the author's use of language?
4. Discuss the book's structure. Does it jump around in time or place? Do the stories flow together well? Would you have done it differently? If yes, how?
5. Did the structure of the book effect your enjoyment of the stories? Why or why not?

In Conclusion

1. Which story was your favorite and why? Which was your least favorite and why?
2. Did this book live up to your expectations? Why or why not?
3. Compare this book to others your group has read. Did it stand out in any way? Will you remember this book in the future? Do you think you will ever read it again or recommend it to a friend?
4. Is there anything else which made an impact upon you that hasn't been discussed yet?