

# Discussion Starters

If you were the main character, what would you have done differently?

*Character*

Which character do you like best? Why?

*Character*

Which character do you like least? Why?

*Character*

What connection can you make with the main character?

*Character*

What are the motivations of the different characters?

*Character*

How would you describe the main character to someone who has not read the story?

*Character*

# Discussion Starters

Do any of the characters remind you of someone in real life? Why?

*Character*

Is this a story you would want to be a character in? Why or why not?

*Character*

Do the characters seem realistic to you? Why or why not?

*Character*

How would the story be different if told from a different perspective?

*Character*

How does the main character change throughout the story?

*Character*

Was the narrator believable? Did you trust his/her version of events? Explain.

*Character*

# Discussion Starters

What mood was created by the different settings in the story?

*Setting*

Have you read another book with a similar setting? How did it compare?

*Setting*

Did the setting help or hinder the main character in reaching his/her goals?

*Setting*

Describe your favorite setting in the story using the 5 senses: touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing.

*Setting*

Were there enough details to help you visualize the settings?

*Setting*

What would you change about the setting if you were the author?

*Setting*

# Discussion Starters

What is similar or different about the time and place in the story and the present?

*Setting*

How would living in the time and place of the story change your life?

*Setting*

Would you want to live in any of the settings in the story?  
Why or why not?

*Setting*

Which parts of the setting were most interesting to you?

*Setting*

How would changing the time and place of the story impact the main character?

*Setting*

Which setting from the story was the most descriptive?

*Setting*

# Discussion Starters

Did the beginning draw you into the plot?

*Plot*

What was the climax of the story?

*Plot*

Was the ending predictable or surprising?

*Plot*

How would you summarize the story in a sentence?

*Plot*

Is this story more driven by the plot or the characters?

*Plot*

What do you think happens to the characters once the story ends?

*Plot*

# Discussion Starters

What were the key moments of this story?

*Plot*

Which parts of the story do you wish were longer? shorter?

*Plot*

What other solutions to the conflict were possible?

*Plot*

What was your favorite moment in the story?

*Plot*

In what other ways could the author have ended the story?

*Plot*

What was your least favorite moment in the story?

*Plot*

# Discussion Starters

How does the main conflict in the story get resolved?

*Plot*

What hints did the author give to foreshadow the ending?

*Plot*

Did the ending answer all of your questions?

*Plot*

What internal conflict does the main character face?

*Plot*

What was the first hint of the main conflict in the novel?

*Plot*

How does conflict move this story forward?

*Plot*

# Discussion Starters

What symbols are used in the story?

*Theme*

What life lessons did the characters in the story learn?

*Theme*

What is the emotional tone of the story?

*Theme*

Was the theme of this story relevant to your life?

*Theme*

What is the overall theme of the story?

*Theme*

Have you read books/stories with a similar theme? How did they compare?

*Theme*



# Discussion Starters

How would a different ending create a different theme?

*Theme*

What message do you think the author wanted the reader to walk away with? Why?

*Theme*

In what ways did the story's setting contribute to the theme?

*Theme*

Do any characters take a stand for something?

*Theme*

What does the story tell us about what it means to be human?

*Theme*

What are the "good" and "evil" forces in the story? Who wins and why?

*Theme*

# Discussion Starters

Who would enjoy this story?  
Why?

*Personal Perspective*

How would you rate this  
story 1 to 10? Explain why.

*Personal Perspective*

How would you have dealt  
with the conflict if you were  
the main character?

*Personal Perspective*

Would you read another  
book by the same author?

*Personal Perspective*

Would this story make a  
good movie? Why or why  
not?

*Personal Perspective*

Do you consider this story to  
be well-written?

*Personal Perspective*

# Discussion Starters

What would you like to see happen in a sequel?

*Personal Perspective*

Which part of the story would you have changed if you were the author?

*Personal Perspective*

If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?

*Personal Perspective*

If you had to design a new cover for this story, what would it look like?

*Personal Perspective*

Do you agree with the choices the main character made?

*Personal Perspective*

How does this story compare to others you have read recently?

*Personal Perspective*