

# Fact Sheet #6: Discussion Ideas for Book Clubs



All of the Book Club Sets provided by Moreton Bay Region Libraries have a downloadable reading guide included in the catalogue record. These guides list many questions that can prompt and guide group discussion on each book.

Members of the Club may wish to take it in turns to research the author or reviews of the book to present background information to the group.

**General discussion points may include:**

## *Characterisation*

The way the author develops the characters is a common discussion topic. Our response to characters is driven by our personal experiences, so each member of your group is likely to have a different view on the character.

## *Characters' Actions*

Are characters' actions the result of destiny or choice? Discuss your thoughts about the actions. They will reflect the way you assign moral responsibility for what happens in the novel.

## *Social Implications*

Changing circumstances of the external world affect characters' (and our) concepts of right and wrong and our place in the universe. Questions raised in literature concerning moral responsibility connect to the events happening in our daily lives.

## *Symbolism*

Symbols have specific political, religious or cultural references. What symbols are used in the novel and what do they mean?

## *Author's Purpose*

What meaning or message is the author trying to convey with the story and situations in the novel?

## *Credibility*

During your discussion, you will be able to discern the author's reasons for stretching credibility. Some novels are flawed because they ask us to take too much for granted; in others, such as fantasy, the unusual is accepted as par for the course.

