

NUMBER EIGHT CRISPY CHICKEN

Reading Guide

Discussing a book with friends is a great way to get more out of your reading experience.

HOW TO HOLD A BOOK CLUB:

Read the book, noting any important page numbers (or highlighting passages on your e-reader) as you go. Take notes as you read.

Choose eight to ten questions about the book. Try to avoid questions that are too general, or which have simple yes/no answers. Ideally, you want to ask questions that are open-ended, but get readers to focus on the themes of the book, and how it relates to deeper issues. You'll find suggestions for discussing *Number Eight Crispy Chicken* below.

Discuss! Remember to avoid dismissing other people's comments, even if you disagree. ThoughtCo also recommends avoiding the words 'like' and 'dislike' - they aren't helpful in moving the discussion forward and can make other people feel defensive. Focus on your experience, and how you felt as you read the book, supporting your views with specific passages from the book. (This is a literary analysis technique called 'close reading').

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

Before diving in:

What did you expect from *Number Eight Crispy Chicken*? Did the book fulfil those expectations? Why/why not?

How would you briefly describe the book to a friend?

How would you describe the plot?

Characters:

Who was your favourite character? Your least favourite?

Did any of the characters remind you of someone in your own life—a friend, family member, boss, co-worker?

Would you want to meet any of the characters? What would you ask or say to them?

If you could insert yourself as a character in this book, what role would you play?

If you were making a movie of this book, who would you cast as Peter? As Jeremy?

Whose viewpoint did you find most convincing? Why?

Names (and numbers) are an important theme in *Number Eight Crispy Chicken*. What is the significance of how Peter is referred to throughout the book?

What motivates Peter? Jeremy? Do you think their actions are justified or ethical?

Do any of the characters grow or change during the course of the novel? If so, in what way?

Setting/theme:

How does the setting of the airport figure in *Number Eight Crispy Chicken*?

What are some of the book's themes? How important were they?

What is the significance of the crispy chicken burger?

Have you ever been trapped somewhere, or experienced a delay that seemed interminable?

What did you already know about immigration detention before you read this book? Did the story reflect what you already knew? Do you feel the book helped enhance your understanding of the subject? (For more information on asylum seekers, check out sarahneofield.com/resources)

Have you gained a new perspective—or did the book affirm your prior views?

Are the book's positions controversial? How so? Who is aligned on which sides of the issue? Where do you fall in that line-up?

How do the issues covered in *Number Eight Crispy Chicken* affect your life?

End:

Did the book end the way you expected, or were you surprised? Was it neatly wrapped up—maybe too neatly? Or was the story unresolved, ending on an ambiguous note?

At which point in the book were you most engaged?

Can you pick out a passage that strikes you as particularly profound or interesting?

What is the central idea or premise of *Number Eight Crispy Chicken*? What are the problems or issues raised?

Does the author—or can you—offer solutions to the issues raised in the book? Who would implement those solutions? How probable is success?

What three words would you use to summarise this book?

What, if anything, set this book apart from others you've read in a similar genre?

Who would you recommend this book to?

If you were to talk with the author, what would you want to know? (You can connect with @sarahneofield on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/sarahneofield) or [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sarahneofield))

If you enjoyed *Number Eight Crispy Chicken* please leave a review at your favourite retailer, or on [Goodreads!](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25111118-Number-Eight-Crispy-Chicken)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/general-book-club-questions-study-discussion-738884>

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