



Book Club Questions



BORED TO DEATH
BOOK CLUB

1. How did the opening line, “The day Ruthie went missing, the blackflies seemed to be especially hungry,” set the tone for the novel?
2. What are your thoughts on the alternating perspectives of Norma and Joe?
3. How does the novel explore the theme of identity?
4. In what ways does Joe’s guilt affect his life and relationships?
5. Discuss the role of forgiveness in the story. Are there characters who found redemption, and others who couldn’t?
6. How did the portrayal of Indigenous experiences add depth to the novel?
7. What role does family play in *The Berry Pickers*, especially with characters dealing with separation and loss?
8. How do the supporting characters, like Mae and Lenore, contribute to the main narrative?
9. How did Peters address cultural erasure through Norma’s character?
10. Discuss the theme of resilience in the novel. How do Joe and Norma cope with their trauma in different ways?
11. How did you feel about Lenore’s actions in taking Ruthie?
12. How does the novel portray the long-term effects of unresolved trauma?
13. What did you think of Norma and Joe’s reunion? Was it satisfying, bittersweet, or something else?
14. How does the novel address generational pain? What impacts do Joe and Norma’s experiences have on their families?
15. Why do you think art and storytelling became meaningful to the characters?
16. What role does the setting (Nova Scotia and Maine) play in shaping the story?
17. If you could add a perspective from any other character, who would it be, and why?
18. What role does community play for both Joe and Norma? How does it shape their identities?
19. How did the novel balance themes of hope and despair? Did you feel optimistic by the end?
20. What are some parallels between Joe’s and Norma’s emotional journeys?