

## QUESTIONS to CONSIDER for FICTION

1. How did you experience the book? Were you immediately drawn into the story-or did it take a while? Did the book intrigue, amuse, disturb, alienate, irritate, or frighten you?
2. Did you find the characters convincing? Are they believable? Are they fully developed as complex human beings-or were they ne-dimensional?
3. Which characters do you particularly admire or dislike? What are their primary characteristics?
4. What motivates different character actions? Do you think those actions are justified or ethical?
5. Do any characters grow or change during the course of the novel? If so, in what way?
6. Who in the book would you like to meet? What would you ask or say?
7. If you insert yourself as a character in the book, what role would you play?
8. Is the plot well developed? Is it believable? Do you feel manipulated along the way, or do the plot events unfold naturally, organically?
9. Is the story plot or character driven? Do events unfold quickly or is more time spent developing characters' inner lives? Does it make a difference to your enjoyment?
10. Consider the ending. Did you expect it or were you surprised? Was it manipulative or forced? Was it neatly wrapped up-maybe too neatly? Or was the story unresolved, ending on an ambiguous note?
11. Can you pick out a passage that strikes you as particularly profound or interesting?
12. Does the book remind you of your own life? An event? A person-like a friend, family member, boss, coworker?
13. If you were to talk with the author, what would you want to know?
14. Have you read the author's other books? Can you discern a similarity-in theme, writing style-between them? Or are they completely different?

## QUESTIONS to CONSIDER for NONFICTION

1. What evidence does the author give to support the book's ideas? Does he/she use personal observations? Facts? Statistics? Opinions? Historical documents? Scientific research? Quotations from authorities?
2. Is the evidence convincing? Is it relevant? Does it come from authoritative sources? Is the evidence speculative...how speculative? Did the book change you?
3. Some authors make assertions, only to walk away from them-without offering explanations. Does the author use such unsupportive claims?
4. What kind of language does the author use? Is it objective and dispassionate? Or passionate and earnest? Is it polemical, sarcastic? Does the language help or undercut the author's premise?
5. Does the author-or can you- draw implications for the future? Are they long- or short-term consequences to the issues raised in the book? If so, are they positive or negative? Affirming or frightening?
6. Does the author-or can you- offer solutions to the issues raised in the book? Who would implement those solutions? How probable is success?
7. Does the author make a call to action to the readers-individually or collectively? Is that call realistic? Achievable? Would readers be able to affect the desired outcome?
8. Are the book's issues controversial? How so? And who is aligned on which sides of the issue? Where do you fall in that line-up?
9. Can you point to specific passages that struck you personally-as interesting, profound, silly or shallow, incomprehensible, illuminating?
10. Did you learn something new? Did it broaden your perspective about a personal or societal issue? Perhaps about another culture in another country or an ethnic/regional culture in your own country?
11. Did the author celebrate or criticize another culture? (family-traditions-economics-political structures-the arts-food-religion) Does the author wish to preserve the culture? Does the culture differ from yours? What were the issues raised? Do the issues affect your life?