



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

“Birdie” by Tracey Lindberg

1. “Birdie’s” narrative is largely in Bernice’s head and follows a non-linear timeline that is often repetitive. Did the disjointed narrative contribute or distract from the message?
2. “Birdie’s” humour is dark and at times snarky. In your opinion, was the humour appropriate to the message?
3. Carleigh Baker, writer for the Globe and Mail, describes “Birdie” as being “both idiosyncratic and relatable, and very, very Canadian”. Would you agree with this assertion?
4. Discuss one aspect of the novel that you thought was inspirational.
5. Discuss one aspect of the novel that you thought was shocking.
6. Lindberg weaves Cree folklore into the narrative. How does this writing style enrich the text?
7. Bernice is frequently described as being fat. Why do you think the reader is reminded of this characteristic?
8. This novel addresses the reality of sexual abuse and the lasting effects it has on an individual’s life. In your opinion, why is it important for authors to shed light on these horrible aspects of society?
9. What role do the other female characters play in the story, and how have they contributed to Bernice’s life?
10. What role does community play in this story?

These questions were created by Clarington Public Library staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

Book Club in a Bag

Terms of Use

Simplify your book club selection with Book Club in a Bag! These kits contain **12 copies** of book-club-worthy titles, from biography to historical suspense, along with a discussion guide.

Visit our website at www.clarington-library.on.ca/bookclubinabag to see a list of available titles, view the availability calendar and fill in a Book Club in a Bag Request Form.

Booking a Kit

- Booking may be made up to a year in advance
- Please check the calendar accessible on our website for availability
- Fill out the form with your information, and a staff member will be in touch to confirm your booking.
- Pick up your hold at the circulation desk. Your notification may come in a few days early, but it will remain available until your specified pick up date.

Terms of Loan

- 12 copies are included in each kit
- 6 week loan period.
- \$3.00 per day late fee.
- No renewals.
- Kit may be picked up at or returned to any branch.
- Kit must be returned at the desk during operating hours, not through an exterior drop box.
- All 12 items are checked out to one member's card.
- The member who borrowed the kit is responsible for:
 - The distribution and return of all 12 items to his or her group members; and
 - Any damages to the books/bag, or lost items. The cost of a damaged or lost book varies depending on the item.