



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

“Fire in the Stars” by Barbara Fradkin

1. Talk about the characters, both good and bad. Describe their personalities and motivations. Are they fully developed and emotionally complex? Or are they flat, one-dimensional heroes and villains?
2. At what point in the book do you begin to piece together what happened?
3. Good crime writers embed hidden clues, slipping them in casually, almost in passing. Did you pick them out, or were you...clueless? Once you've finished the book, go back to locate the clues hidden in plain sight. How skillful was the author in burying them?
4. Good crime writers also tease us with red-herrings—false clues—to purposely lead us astray. Does the author try to throw you off track? If so, were you tripped up?
5. Does the author ratchet up the suspense? Did you find yourself anxious—quickly turning pages to learn what happened? At what point does the suspense start to build? Where does it climax...then perhaps start rising again?
6. A good ending is essential in any mystery or crime thriller: it should ease up on tension, answer questions, and tidy up loose ends. Does the ending accomplish those goals? Can you envision a different or better ending?
7. Point to passages in the book—ideas, descriptions, or dialogue—that you found interesting or revealing, that somehow struck you. What, if anything, made you stop and think? Or maybe even laugh.
8. Overall, does the book satisfy? Does it live up to the standards of a good crime story or suspense thriller? Or does it somehow fall short?
9. Compare this book to other mystery, crime, or suspense thrillers that you've read. Consider other authors or other books in the series by the same author.

The above questions were taken from LitLovers.

www.litlovers.com

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.