

HOW TO START YOUR OWN BOOK CLUB

Think it would be hard to start your own book club? Think again! All you need are some friends who are as excited about the books they read as you are and a little bit of organization.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED:

The best way to find people to be in your book club is to ask your friends.

Think of all the people you know who like to read, and ask them to join. If you still don't feel like you have enough people, ask each of your friends to bring someone else. You can usually get a good discussion going with 6–8 people, but any number that is comfortable for you will work. If you're having trouble finding enough cool people to form your club, check with your school, local library, or bookstore to see if there's a group that you can join.

Figure out when and where you want to meet.

Some groups meet once a month, some meet every other month. You could get together at someone's house, in a park, on the beach, or in your school's library. If it sounds too official and overwhelming to decide all the "wheres" and "whens" right now, don't worry! It's YOUR group, so YOU get to make all the decisions. All you have to do is get together once and you can work out the rest of the details later.

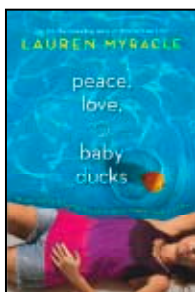
Decide how you will choose books, and how the discussions will be run.

Maybe you have a favorite author that you and your friends would like to focus on. Or maybe you want to take turns picking your favorite book. Maybe one person likes to talk and would like to lead the discussion, or maybe you would rather just get together and talk about the books you are reading. If you get stuck, you can often find discussion questions online (try the publisher's website) or at your local library or bookstore.

The most important thing to remember is that there's no right or wrong way to have a book club. Do what you're comfortable with and always have fun, and your group will be a success!

For more discussion guides to get your group going, visit
www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians

Humor, Heart, and Sisterhood



Peace, Love, and Baby Ducks

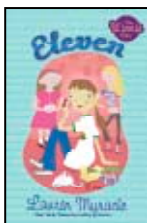
by Lauren Myracle

HC: 978-0-525-47743-3 • \$16.99

PB: 978-0-14-241527-6 • \$xx.xx

Ages 12 up • Grades 6 up

Also by Lauren Myracle



Eleven

HC: 978-0-525-47165-3

\$16.99

PB: 978-0-14-240346-4

\$5.99



Twelve

HC: 978-0-525-47784-6

\$15.99

PB: 978-0-14-241091-2

\$6.99



Thirteen

HC: 978-0-525-47896-6

\$15.99

PB: 978-0-14-241370-8

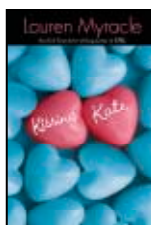
\$6.99



The Fashion Disaster that Changed My Life

HC: 978-0-525-47222-3 • \$15.99

PB: 978-0-14-240717-2 • \$6.99



Kissing Kate

PB: 978-0-14-240869-8 • \$7.99



Dutton Children's Books • Puffin Books
Divisions of Penguin Young Readers Group
www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians

This discussion guide has been provided by Penguin Young Readers Group for classroom, library, and reading group use. It may be reproduced in its entirety or excerpted for these purposes.

Discussion Guide ISBN: 978-0-525-43879-3

New York Times bestselling author of *THIRTEEN* and *TTYL*

LAUREN MYRACLE

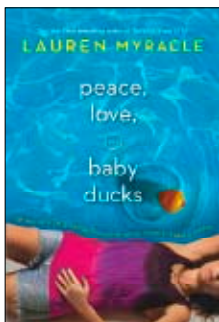
DISCUSSION GUIDE

peace,
love,
AND
baby
ducks

No one can be a better friend—or worse enemy—than a sister.



ABOUT THE BOOK



High school sophomore Carly is so over her privileged lifestyle in the affluent Atlanta suburbs. Carly is tired of pastel-tinted entitlement and empty values. This Southern princess is ready to become a non-leg-shaving-rebel hippy, just to be different. In fact, the only thing Carly isn't sick of is being with her sister, Anna. But while Carly was away for the summer, Anna changed. Anna, the baby sister (even though she's only 15 months younger), has now blossomed into the hottest girl in school. Carly has always relied on the constancy—and authenticity—of her sister, but suddenly everything is different.

Things brighten considerably when mysterious, beautiful Cole appears on the scene. Carly is soon too busy crushing on Cole and finding herself at the start of a fabulous new friendship to notice that—even though she seems to be fitting in—Anna is drifting away and needing Carly more than ever. When they throw a party, Carly and Anna (and a trio of adorable baby ducks) hit rock bottom and finally start to make things right.

With warmth, insight, and an unparalleled gift for finding humor even in stormy situations, beloved author Lauren Myracle dives into the tumultuous waters of sisterhood and shows that even very different sisters can learn to help each other stay afloat.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Lauren Myracle is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Eleven*, *Twelve*, *Thirteen*, *The Fashion Disaster that Changed My Life* and *Kissing Kate*. She has also co-authored *How to Be Bad* with fellow YA writers E. Lockhart and Sarah Mlynowski and contributed to the high-profile anthology *Prom Nights from Hell*. Ms. Myracle is a graduate of the Vermont College MFA program in writing for children and young adults. Though she now lives in Colorado, Lauren grew up in Atlanta, the setting for *Peace, Love, and Baby Ducks*.

Visit her online at www.laurenmyracle.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The title of the book breaks down the story into three sections: “Peace,” “Love,” and “Baby Ducks.” What is the significance of breaking up the story into these three sections? How is each concept reflected in each section and how are all three concepts woven into the story as a whole?
- How does Carly feel that she has changed over her summer away from Atlanta? How does she try to hold on to those ideals after she returns home? How does she express that to others through her appearance and her actions?
- How are Carly’s values different from those of her peers at school? What does her choice of working on the wilderness trail as opposed to taking a job at the Cloister show about the things Carly holds important?
- How do different people react to Carly’s transformation when she comes back from camp? Why does each person have the reaction they do and how do those reactions affect how Carly feels and acts?
- How does Carly feel about Anna’s transformation over the summer? What happens when Carly isn’t able to control her feelings? How do Carly’s actions toward Anna change their relationship? How do both sisters affect their relationship because of the way they act toward each other?
- How do the changes in Anna’s and Carly’s bodies affect both their self-perception and the way others perceive them? How does each girl’s ability to control herself affect the way she views those changes? How do the reactions of others affect their behavior, both in the short-term and long-term?
- How do Carly’s friendships change over the course of the book? Why is she friends with each person and what does she learn from each of her friendships? How do the choices she makes with her friendships reflect the changes that Carly makes in herself?
- Carly is very concerned with the socio-economic inequalities in Atlanta. How does her experience at school contribute to her feelings about these issues? How do her interactions with people in the greater Atlanta community contribute?
- Do Carly and Anna have an obligation to take care of each other? How does their father’s concept of “sisterly love” affect the way each of them deals with different situations? How does Carly feel when she doesn’t take care of her sister? How does the way each girl thinks of their relationship change over the course of the story?

- How does being sisters allow Carly and Anna to be closer than if they were just friends? In what ways does it make their relationship more difficult?
- Carly thinks a lot about religion and where her belief system fits in with those around her. How does this contribute to Carly's feelings about her classmates and her school? What does Carly believe in? How do her religious beliefs correlate to those of the other people around her? How are they different?
- What attracts Carly to Cole? Why does she think that he embodies everything that she holds important? Why do her friends feel that Cole isn't perfect for Carly? How does Carly come to realize that Cole isn't who she wants and how does she finally realize who her "ironic love boodle" really is?
- How do the people in Carly's life affect the way she thinks about the world around her (Peyton, Anna, Cole, Roger, Vonzelle, etc.)? How do her friends' different perspectives help Carly come to a better understanding of herself and her beliefs?
- When Carly and Anna talk after the party, how do they reconcile? What are the positive things that come from the aftermath of the party? How did the incidents at the party help Carly and Anna to become closer?
- Carly feels that there are rules in life that should be followed—what are some of the rules that Carly explains to others? How do these rules relate to Carly's belief system? Does everyone agree with Carly's rules? What rules might other characters have and how well does Carly follow those rules?
- Carly and Anna's parents treat each daughter differently—what are some of the ways in which that affects how each girl thinks of herself? How do those interactions shape the way Carly and Anna relate to each other and others?
- How might the video Carly makes with Roger and Vonzelle be considered offensive? How does Carly's opinion of what she did change?
- How does Carly deal with the problems that come up throughout the course of the book? List a few of the mistakes and problems and explain how Carly handles each one. Does she react differently when she's solving her own problems and when she's solving problems for her sister? Does the way that Anna deals with her own problems change by the end of the book?