

Twenty Questions

You do not have to have read the book. You do not have to know the right answer – most of these don't have one. Pick one, ask it, and let the silence do some work.

BEFORE YOU OPEN IT

- 01 Look at the cover. What do you think this is going to be about?
- 02 Who do you think is telling this story?
- 03 What would make you stop reading this one?

WHILE YOU'RE IN IT

- 04 What do you think happens next – and what makes you think so?
- 05 Has anything happened yet that you'd want to warn someone about?
- 06 If you had to stop right now, where would you stop?
- 07 What does this remind you of?
- 08 Is there anything you don't understand yet? Let's leave it and see.

ABOUT THE PEOPLE

- 09 Why did they do that?
- 10 Who in this book would you not want to sit next to?
- 11 Which one of them is telling the truth?
- 12 What does this person want, and what's in their way?
- 13 Has anyone changed since the beginning?

ABOUT THE WRITING

- 14 Why do you think it starts here, and not somewhere else?
- 15 What did the author want you to feel there – and did it work?
- 16 Is there a sentence you'd read out loud to someone?
- 17 What's been left out that you'd want to know?

WHEN IT'S OVER

- 18 What part would you take out?
- 19 Was that a fair ending?
- 20 Who should read this next, and why them?

One is plenty. You are not working through the list. Ask one, mean it, and wait longer than feels comfortable. The good answer is almost always the second one.