

Book Club Questions for Sunshine Nails by Mai Nguyen

1. The Tran family faces challenges with the opening of a high-end chain salon across the street from "Sunshine Nails." How did you feel about the Tran family's response to this threat to their business? Were their actions justified, and did you sympathize with their predicament?
2. Gentrification is a prominent theme in the novel. How does the author explore this topic through the lens of the Tran family's nail salon? How does their immigrant experience add depth to the narrative?
3. Each member of the Tran family has their own struggles and desires. Which character's perspective did you connect with the most, and why? How did their individual storylines contribute to the overall narrative?
4. Relationships are put to the test as the Tran family faces challenges. How did you feel about the conflicts that arose between family members? Were there moments where you found yourself torn between understanding their actions and disagreeing with them?
5. What were your initial thoughts about Savannah, the owner of Take Ten?
6. The Tran Family consists of two generations—the parents, Debbie and Phil, and their adult children, Jessica and Dustin, along with their niece, Thuy. How does each generation differ in their values, beliefs, and aspirations?
7. Humor is sprinkled throughout the novel, providing several lighthearted moments. Which scenes made you laugh the most, and how did they contribute to your perception of the characters?
8. Explore the significance of the golden Buddha statue at the salon to the Tran family. What symbolic meaning do you think it holds for them?
9. At the beginning of the story, both Dustin and Jessica seem to lack direction. How do their characters evolve and mature as the plot unfolds?
10. Compare Phil and Debbie's approaches to resolving the family's financial challenges. Did one of them appear more drastic or extreme to you? Why?
11. Jessica's high school friendships play a crucial role throughout the narrative, impacting the conflicts between Sunshine Nails and Take Ten. Discuss the significance of these relationships and how they evolve as the story progresses.
12. Thuy's decision to work at Take Ten is pivotal in the plot. Share your thoughts on her choice and the events that influenced her decision.
13. Although the story is set in Toronto, does SUNSHINE NAILS possess universal themes that could apply to any other city? Explain your reasoning.

14. The novel explores themes of loyalty, love, and forgiveness. How do these themes manifest in the story, and what lessons do the characters learn throughout their journey?
15. The author delves into cultural identity and the immigrant experience through the Tran family's background. How did the portrayal of Vietnamese traditions, food, and customs enrich the storytelling?
16. Debbie and Phil Tran's journey as Vietnamese refugees is a significant part of the story. How did their past experiences shape their present-day decisions and the way they approached challenges?
17. "Sunshine Nails" features multiple points of view, offering insights into each family member's thoughts and feelings. Did this storytelling approach enhance your reading experience? How did it contribute to your understanding of the characters and their motivations?
18. The novel touches on the undercurrent of racism in society. How do you think the Tran family's experiences as immigrants reflect broader issues related to racism and discrimination?
19. Each character brings a unique perspective to the story. Did you find yourself relating to any particular character? If so, who and why?
20. Reflect on your emotional response to the conclusion of the book. What do you believe the Tran family learned throughout their journey? Are you satisfied with the resolutions for each family member?
21. Overall, what did you think of "Sunshine Nails"? Did you enjoy the light-hearted yet impactful narrative, and what were your favorite aspects of the book?