Book Club Questions for

Happiness Falls by Angie Kim

1. The novel opens with the line, "We didn't call the police right away." How did this first line set the tone for the story? Did it capture your attention immediately?

2. The story is told from the perspective of Mia, the daughter of the missing father, Adam. How did you find Mia's narrative voice? How did her perspective influence your understanding of the events?

3. Mia's twin brother, John, is characterized as the "good boy" in the family. How did you perceive John's role in the story and his relationship with Mia and Eugene?

4. Detective Janus is named after a Roman god associated with beginnings and endings. How did her character and actions reflect the implications of her name in the story?

5. Mia, the protagonist, is described as hyper-verbal and analytical. How did her narration style impact your reading experience? Did it enhance or hinder your understanding of the story and its characters?

6. The book delves into the challenges of living with a neurodivergent family member, in this case, Eugene, who has Angelman Syndrome and is non-verbal. How did the novel portray the dynamics within the Parkson family, and how did their experiences resonate with you as a reader?

7. The theme of happiness and the "happiness quotient" theories play a significant role in the story. How did you interpret the various discussions and experiments related to happiness in the book? Did they add depth to the narrative, or did they feel distracting?

8. The story incorporates footnotes within the narrative to share Mia's opinions and musings. How did these footnotes enhance or influence your reading experience?

9. "Happiness Falls" is not just a mystery but also a family drama and a novel of philosophical inquiry. How did the combination of these elements contribute to your overall enjoyment of the book?

10. The story takes place during the COVID-19 pandemic. How did the pandemic influence the characters and their actions throughout the novel? Did it impact your reading experience, considering it's a recent real-world event?

11. The narrative uses various clues, texts, and footnotes to explore multiple theories about Adam's disappearance. Did you find these elements engaging or overwhelming? How did they affect your experience of solving the mystery?

12. Mia undergoes personal growth and self-discovery throughout the novel. How did her character evolve, and what did you think of her transformation by the end of the story?

13. Without giving away spoilers, were you satisfied with the resolution of the mystery surrounding Adam's disappearance? Did the ending meet your expectations, or were you left with lingering questions?

14. In what ways does the book challenge common stereotypes about family, communication, and happiness?

15. How did the author, Angie Kim, balance the mystery plot with the exploration of family dynamics and neurodiversity in the novel? Did you find this balance effective?

16, If you've read Angie Kim's previous novel, "Miracle Creek," how does "Happiness Falls" compare in terms of its themes, characters, and overall storytelling?