

**Discussion Guide for
The Summer Book Club by Susan Mallery**

1. How do Laurel, Paris, and Cassie support each other throughout the book, and what does their friendship mean to each of them?
2. Discuss the challenges that Laurel faces as a single mother after her divorce. How does she navigate feelings of inadequacy and work to improve her relationship with her daughters?
3. Explore the theme of self-discovery and forgiveness in the book. How do Laurel, Paris, and Cassie confront their pasts and work towards becoming better versions of themselves?
4. Paris' temper led to the end of her marriage with a great guy. How did this revelation affect your perception of her character? Did your feelings evolve as you learned more about her?
5. When Jonah takes partial blame for his divorce with Paris, what do you think he means? Do you agree with his perspective on fault in divorce? Share your views on whether divorce can ever be solely attributed to one person.
6. Despite her personal growth, Paris struggles to believe in herself. What finally convinces her that she's capable of taking a chance on love again?
7. What role do the male characters, such as Raphael, Colton, and Jonah, play in challenging the women and contributing to their growth?
8. How does the book club serve as a tool for the characters to come to a better understanding of themselves and each other? What significance does it hold in their lives?
9. Laurel expresses concern that her views on men post-divorce may negatively impact her daughters. Do you agree with her worries? How might a parent's beliefs influence their children's perspectives on relationships?
10. Should single mothers actively seek out positive male role models for their children? If so, what approaches could they take? Share your thoughts on Laurel's plan to find a male friend for her kids.
11. How does Colton demonstrate that he differs from Laurel's ex-husband? Did Colton's family background influence your opinion of him? If yes, how?
12. Discuss the portrayal of strong women in the novel and the importance of breaking old patterns to embrace new beginnings.
13. What were your favorite moments or scenes in the book? Did any particular character resonate with you?
14. Explore the balance between romance, friendship, and personal growth in the story. How do these elements intertwine to create a fulfilling narrative?
15. Why do Cassie's siblings kick her out, and do you think their actions were justified? Share your thoughts on family dynamics and accountability in difficult situations.

16. What pivotal moments serve as the catalyst for change in Laurel's, Paris', and Cassie's lives? How do these "inciting incidents" shape the trajectory of each character's storyline?
17. Which character did you find most relatable, and why? What aspects of their journey resonated with you personally?
18. Reflect on the significance of trust and vulnerability in the characters' relationships, both romantic and platonic. How do Laurel, Paris, and Cassie navigate their fears of trusting others and opening themselves up to love and friendship?
19. Initially yearning to return to Maine, Cassie's perspective shifts by the story's end. What influences her change of heart towards Los Lobos and her future aspirations?
20. How does the structure of the summer book club in the novel differ from your own book club? How does your club select its next read, and do you wish the process were different? Does your book club continue meeting during the summer, and if so, do your reading preferences change during that time?
21. How does the setting, including the small town and the archaeological dig, contribute to the overall atmosphere and themes of the book?
22. Reflect on the ending of the book. Were you satisfied with how the characters' stories concluded, and why or why not?