

## IN TRANSIT BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

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1. Discuss how the lives of all the characters in the novel, in one way or another, are 'in transit'. How does "rootedness" or involvement in 'community' change these life journeys from fearful to empowering experiences? Discuss how Lib, Paul, Arvo, Annie, Sonja and Earl grow as they reach out to one another.
2. How do the various characters in the story define "home"? Discuss how those definitions change over time for them.
3. How do 'traditional' gender roles contribute to Lib's struggle to face the loss of her spouse and begin again? Discuss how she struggles with such stereotypes as the novel progresses.
4. In what ways are generational relationships crucial to the story? Discuss how Lib's family dynamics impact the plot and her own personal growth.
5. Lib's daughter, Danielle, faces demons of her own when her father dies. Discuss how Dani's childhood contributes to how she relates to her mother in time of crisis and as Lib tries to rebuild her life.
6. Discuss Paul Lauden's struggles to deal with his grief, his past life choices and cope with the aftermath of his own wife's death. What factors limit his flexibility as he tries to begin again?
7. Contrast and compare the response of Paul's son to losing a parent and the way Lib and her daughter are facing similar issues. What factors make it difficult to cope with how their surviving parent's lives are changing?
8. How do the marriages of Annie and John, Earl and Sonja, the elderly campers in the Minnie Winnie, even Arvo and his lost love, play a role in Paul and Lib's growth as the novel progresses? How do attitudes toward "work" vs. "retirement" shape those relationships?
9. Some 500,000 households are currently full-time RVers. Why can that full-time RV lifestyle be so appealing? Discuss what couples and singles can do to make that life choice more successful long-term.
10. The Lauden's and the Aventura's in many ways can be considered typical of families struggling with loss and change. Discuss how treating life as a "journey" not a destination can make such turning points survivable. Discuss how imagery and the novel's setting contribute to conveying the spiritual side of that world view.

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