



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Forgiveness by Mark Sakamoto

1. Does the title of the book give a true indication of what the book is about?
2. *Forgiveness* is a memoir. Did you learn anything about different types of narrators? What are the positives and negatives of narrating your own story?
3. When Mark Sakamoto first interviewed his 90 year old grandmother about her experience he asked why she had never talked about it before. She replied “Because hate can come back”. She was afraid to acknowledge it by speaking of it. How do you feel about that explanation?
4. Having the opportunity to interview and document your grandparents about a difficult time in their personal history sounds wonderful but could be potentially awkward. What would you want to ask your grandparents if you had/have the opportunity?
5. In 1988, Brian Mulroney issued an apology to Japanese Canadians for their treatment during the war, and British Columbia issued another apology in 2012. In 2011, Japan apologized to Canada for its mistreatment of prisoners of war. Do these apologies make it easier for citizens to forgive? Are they meaningful?
6. In today’s society, are there people who are isolated? Do you think certain groups of people face increased isolation? Is there anything that can be done for them?
7. Which generation of characters most resonated with you?
8. Did the fact that the book was written about Canadians affect your impressions of the book? Do you think it is important to read stories set in Canada? Why or why not?

The above questions were adapted from
https://media.curio.ca/filer_public/4a/96/4a96dc18-9f93-41cd-9951-2dc9ca876f52/cr18bgforgive.pdf to help enhance your discussion of the book.

Book Club in a Bag

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