



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

1. How do you think Emmett, Duchess, and Woolly's various upbringings—particularly their relationships to their parents—have shaped them? How have their parents' choices influenced their own desires and ambitions? When you were eighteen, which aspects of your parents' lives did you hope to emulate, and which did you hope to cast aside?
2. How would you describe Billy's personality? While he is the youngest and least experienced character in the novel, one could argue that he has the greatest influence on the other characters. What is it about Billy that makes this so?
3. The city of New York is a thousand cities rolled into one. How does New York differ in the eyes of Emmett, Duchess, Woolly, and Billy?
4. The novel takes place in the mid-1950s—a period of peace, prosperity, and upward mobility in the United States. How does the era shape the journeys of the characters, if at all? What aspects of their journey are unique to their times; what aspects were shared by you when you were on the verge of adulthood?
5. How would you describe each main character's transformation over the course of the novel? Which character do you think evolves most significantly? Which characters, in your opinion, found what they were looking for? Do you have a favorite character, and why them?
6. Given inflation, \$50,000 in 1954 would be the equivalent of about \$500,000 today. What would you do if you were suddenly given half a million dollars?

The above questions were taken from <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/549384/the-lincoln-highway-by-amor-towles/9780735222359/readers-guide/> to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Born and raised in the Boston area, Amor Towles graduated from Yale College and received an MA in English from Stanford University. Having worked as an investment professional for over twenty years, he now devotes himself full time to writing in Manhattan, where he lives with his wife and two children. His novels *Rules of Civility*, *A Gentleman in Moscow*, and *The Lincoln Highway* have collectively sold more than five million copies and been translated into more than thirty languages. – from author's website

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