



# Book Club in a Bag

## Discussion Questions

---

### “Where the Light Falls” by Alison Pataki, Owen Pataki

1. This novel begins with a scene at the guillotine, one of the bloodiest and most iconic symbols of the French Revolution, specifically its Reign of Terror. Why do you think the authors begin the story in this way? What role does the guillotine play throughout this novel?
2. The characters in *Where the Light Falls* frequently mention the ideals of the Enlightenment and its impact on the French Revolution. Do you believe the Revolution was born out of the Enlightenment? Why or why not?
3. This book has many examples of mentors or father figures guiding younger people, some more positive than others. Discuss some of these mentors. Whom did you find to be the most inspiring? Whom did you find to be the most malicious?
4. In this story, Jean-Luc St. Clair struggles to balance his obligations to his family as a father and a husband with his duties as a lawyer, citizen, and republican fighting for his beliefs. Does he strike an appropriate balance between the two, or does he fall short in his obligations to one or the other? Why?
5. Sophie de Vincennes tells Andre of her forced marriage at a very young age to a count. Discuss the obstacles and opportunities women of this time period faced.
6. Compare Napoleon’s expedition to Egypt with more recent interventions in the Middle East and North Africa. Are there any similarities between the conquest explored in this book and contemporary conflicts? How are they different?
7. Were you surprised by the revelation of the true identity of the writer known as Citizen Persephone? Why or why not? Why do you think the writer kept his or her identity a secret?

# Book Club in a Bag

## Terms of Use

---

Simplify your book club selection with Book Club in a Bag! These kits contain **12 copies** of book-club-worthy titles, from biography to historical suspense, along with a discussion guide.

Visit our website at [www.clarington-library.on.ca/bookclubinabag](http://www.clarington-library.on.ca/bookclubinabag) to see a list of available titles, view the availability calendar and fill in a Book Club in a Bag Request Form.

### Booking a Kit

- Booking may be made up to a year in advance
- Please check the calendar accessible on our website for availability
- Fill out the form with your information, and a staff member will be in touch to confirm your booking.
- Pick up your hold at the circulation desk. Your notification may come in a few days early, but it will remain available until your specified pick up date.

### Terms of Loan

- 12 copies are included in each kit
- 6 week loan period.
- \$3.00 per day late fee.
- No renewals.
- Kit may be picked up at or returned to any branch.
- Kit must be returned at the desk during operating hours, not through an exterior drop box.
- All 12 items are checked out to one member's card.
- The member who borrowed the kit is responsible for:
  - The distribution and return of all 12 items to his or her group members; and
  - Any damages to the books/bag, or lost items. The cost of a damaged or lost book varies depending on the item.