A book club guide

A thirty-minute conversation about Before We Let Go. Bring one passage, a pen and a few scraps of paper. Anyone can pass or use an invented example.

First 5 minutes

Give everyone a way in

Invite each person to name a scene, question, or everyday detail that stayed with them. A listener can pass. Leave room for someone who came without finishing the book.

Next 10 minutes

Hear two readings of one moment

Choose a scene someone mentioned. Invite two people to say what they noticed. Ask, “Which detail gave you that impression?” Spend a little time with the difference before moving to anyone’s personal life.

Next 10 minutes

Try some words

Read the first discussion question below. In pairs, write one sentence each friend might actually say. Read the sentences aloud. Which one leaves room for a real answer?

Last 5 minutes

Let each person choose an ending

Invite one thing someone would like to try, reconsider, or keep wondering about. Sharing is optional. Give everyone a quiet minute to write before you close.

If the room goes quiet

Ask what time the two friends actually agreed on. Start with the calendar. If someone offers advice, ask whether the speaker would like suggestions or just wants to finish the story.

Questions for the table

Choose two or three. It is fine to spend the whole evening on one if people still have something to say.

1. Two friends keep saying they'll have dinner. One holds Saturday open, the other hears a vague invitation. Where does each person's responsibility begin? What could either one say on Thursday?

2. Someone apologizes three times for the same mistake. At what point might each apology start asking the other person for something? What would a useful repair look like?

3. Think of a small object that carries a memory. What can a friend ask that would make it easier to talk about it? What could they offer if you would rather stay quiet?

4. Pick a moment when two people in your group read the author differently. What did each of you notice on the page? Is there anything you still disagree about?

5. Where did the book give you language for a distinction you had already felt? Try explaining it to someone who has never read a page.

6. What question would you bring back to this group in a week? What ordinary moment might help you answer it?

A question to take home