



# Book Club in a Bag

## Discussion Questions

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### *The Clay Girl* by Heather Tucker

1. Did you think the characters and their problems/decisions/relationships were believable or realistic? If not, was the author trying to make them realistic, and why did he or she fail? Did the male/female author draw realistic male and female characters? Which character could you relate to best and why? Talk about the secondary characters. Were they important to the story? Did any stand out for you?
2. Talk about the author's use of language/writing style. Have each member read their favorite couple of passages out loud. Was the language appropriate to the story? Was it more poetic or vernacular? Did it stand in the way of your appreciation of the story, or enhance your enjoyment of the book? Was the dialogue realistic sounding? Was there a rhythm to the author's style, or anything else that might be considered unique about it?
3. Was the author fairly descriptive? Was he or she better at describing the concrete or the abstract? Was the author clear about what he or she was trying to say, or were you confused by some of what you read? How did this affect your reading of the book?
4. Talk about the plot. What was more important, the characters or the plot? Was the plot moved forward by decisions of the characters, or were the characters at the mercy of the plot? Was the action believable? What events in the story stand out for you as memorable? Was the story chronological? Was there foreshadowing and suspense or did the author give things away at the beginning of the book? Was this effective? How did it affect your enjoyment of the book?
5. What were some of the major themes of the book? Are they relevant in your life? Did the author effectively develop these themes? If so, how? If not, why not? Did you think the story was funny, sad, touching, disturbing, and moving? Why or why not?
6. Finally, what else struck you about the book as good or bad? What did you like or dislike about it that we haven't discussed already? Were you glad you read this book? Would you recommend it to a friend? Did this book make you want to read more work by this author?

The above questions were taken from  
[www.readinggroupguides.com](http://www.readinggroupguides.com) for your discussion of the book.

# Author Biography

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Throughout a long and varied career in the health sciences Heather has gathered stories— from nursing internationally, to her experience as a teacher, a public health and psychiatric nurse and bereavement counsellor. Her debut novel, *The Clay Girl*, released October 2016 by ECW Press was the American Booksellers Association debut pick, a finalist for the Atlantic Book and the Kobo Emerging Author Award and was voted by readers into the top ten on the Canada 150 best books list.

She is a graduate of the University of Toronto, The Humber School for Writers, the Institute of Children’s Literature and is a member of The Writers’ Union of Canada and The Writers’ Community of Durham Region (WCDR). – *from author’s website*

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