

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Book Club Questions

WARNING: These questions contain spoilers to the plot of THOUGHTS & PRAYERS.

1. What did you feel at the moment Lily opened the door for ABC? Have you ever been in a situation where you knew something was wrong but did it anyway?
2. When Mr. Robinson saves her life, Keisha witnesses an extraordinary act of courage by a man she has just pegged as ordinary. How does this experience affect her?
3. Joe Hernandez has dedicated his life to two things, the law and his daughter. But when his world is shaken apart by a school shooting, he eventually sacrifices both of them for revenge. Was he right to shoot ABC?
4. Who was the character in THOUGHTS & PRAYERS you most identified with and why?
5. People who have experienced traumatic events like a school shooting sometimes have difficulty making decisions. They feel numb, lose their appetite, and have nightmares. The closer they were to witnessing a death, the stronger their reaction. How do the survivors in THOUGHTS & PRAYERS deal with their reactions?
6. Sofia says she wants to be bolder, perhaps be more daring, like her friend Caitlyn. By the end of the book has she become more daring, bolder, and how?
7. Is Caitlyn really a “ghost?”
8. Have you ever had a near death experience? Is Caitlyn’s experience similar to or different from yours?
9. What does the title, *Thoughts & Prayers*, mean to you?
10. How did the media coverage affect the characters? Do you think the media was correct in refusing to use Aaron’s name and instead calling him the ABC Killer?
11. What role does social media play in shaping people’s thoughts about a tragedy?
12. After the death of his daughter, Mike wanted revenge. Do you think that changed? Why or why not?
13. How did Charmaine’s pregnancy motivate her to change her life?
14. Do you agree with the authors’ choice to focus on the survivors’ experiences and not the shooter?

15. Did the shooter's point of view appearance toward the end of the book change your thoughts about him?
16. What do you think about Charmaine's initial resentment of Keisha?
17. Lily and Keisha debate whether hard work or talent is more important to achieving success. How did their views on the debate stage differ from their lives? Did this change for either of them by the end of the book? What do you feel is more important in your life?
18. Lily creates art collages from found (or stolen) objects. Why do you think she chooses this method? Why do you think it was important for her to finish the face collage?
19. How did Mike's love for Lisa motivate his actions?
20. Do you think Lily should go to prison for her actions? If so, what is a fair sentence? If not, why?