

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman
Discussion Questions

1. “Killing someone is easy. Hiding the body, now, that’s usually the hard part. That’s how you get caught. I was lucky enough to stumble upon the right place, the perfect place, really. I come back from time to time, just to make sure the thing is safe and sound. It always is, and I suppose it always will be. Sometimes I’ll have a cigarette, which I know I shouldn’t, but it’s my only vice.” And with that opening line, off we go. And yet, reflecting back upon all of the revelations in the closing chapter, is it at all clear which character was speaking here?
2. Tony’s murder sets the action in motion. But his wasn’t the only murder and there were certainly plenty of other crimes and tragedies committed throughout the storyline of the book. What surprised, interested or confused you the most about the various murders and crimes?
3. The typical amateur detective novel doesn’t usually use a diary as a narrative device. And yet, we got a lot of first person point of view from Joyce’s diary. What did you think of her diary entries? What, if anything, did they add to the story?
4. There is a tricky relationship which develops between the Murder Club and police team of Donna and Chris. At times, Elizabeth manipulates both police officers, but at other times, there is a friendly give-and-take happening. Did those relationships work for you? Why or why not?
5. In the book, we meet four amateur detectives. Elizabeth (operative and ringleader), Ibrahim (psychiatrist and Zumba class aficionado), Ron (labor organizer who secretly prefers wine to beer) and Joyce (the nurse who cooks). Which did you identify with the most? If you joined the Murder Club, which role might you play in the group dynamic?
6. Joyce says that she’s “...very happy to be overlooked and always has been.” Is that really true? What did you think of Joyce’s low key personality? Other than the diary, what does she contribute to the team?
7. Elizabeth is carrying a lot of burdens. She’s the key driver for the Club, trying to support Penny (and John) and her own husband’s decline. How did you respond to Elizabeth’s driving role?
8. Were you confused about the purpose of the photo, which was left at Curran’s murder scene and also sent to Ron. Was it a clue? Or was it a red herring?
9. Which did you find more interesting? The cast of characters or for the murder clues?
10. Did you suspect the murderer? Or were you surprised?
11. Do you have any experience with retirement homes and assisted living centers? Have you ever heard of one with the amenities of Coopers Chase Retirement Village? Would you be willing to live there?