



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

1. Theo not only connected with folks individually, he also fostered a butterfly effect whereby the townsfolk collided and connected with one another. Talk about several instances in the book where that plays out.
2. Music, art, the play of light and flowing rivers are all metaphors that re-occur throughout the book. Pick one and discuss how the Levi used it to further the narrative or create mood.
3. For most of the book, Theo is a mystery, drawing out everyone's story but not sharing his own. Why do think that the author chose to keep him under wraps for so long?
4. Since Theo's backstory got doled out so sparingly, some readers (noted below) were left frustrated. They felt that the book made the reader wait too long, suggesting that a heavier hand in editing would have improved the pacing. What do you think?
5. Did the final reveal of Theo's relationship with Gammy cause you to re-think some of the interactions and scenes from earlier in the book?
6. Theo's final paintings feature a hat, a feather, a pair of shoes, a pill bottle and a riverscape. What was Theo saying with that choice?
7. How did Theo's personal tragedies, including the loss of his child, shape his approach to giving and relationships?
8. From the funeral, "And so, I say to you, my friends and neighbors, followers of Christ and those not, if you would honor the memory of Gamez Theophilus Zilavez, then do good, bestow kindness, strive for beauty, seek and find the river that leads to life everlasting, and draw from the fountain that never runs dry."
9. Were you inspired by Theo's acts of generosity? Has it made you rethink how you approach strangers?

These questions were created taken from <https://libromaniacs.com/theo-of-golden-book-club-questions/> to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Allen Levi grew up in Columbus, Georgia, attended University of Georgia for degrees in English and Law, and worked as an attorney from 1980 to 1990. He left law practice in 1990, moved to Scotland, and, while there, received a degree in Scottish fiction from the University of Edinburgh. He returned home, resumed law practice, and finally ventured into vocational music in 1996.

Since then, he has worked as a traveling musician, sharing his whimsical, thought-provoking brand of songwriting and storytelling to audiences across the U.S. He has over twenty albums to his credit, as well as hundreds of other unpublished songs.

Levi is the author of *The Last Sweet Mile*, a memoir of the close friendship he shared with his brother, and a children's book, *Oliviatown*, adapted from a song of the same title. (<https://www.allenlevi.com>)

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