



Discussion Questions

The Guncle by Steven Rowley

1. Patrick and his sister, Clara, each has a different viewpoint on what would be best for Maisie and Grant after their mother's death. Which approach did you agree most with? Did that change by the novel's end?
2. Patrick is meant to take care of his niece and nephew for the summer, but Maisie and Grant prove to be just as impactful on Patrick. What do the children teach their uncle? Discuss the ways in which they learn from one another.
3. *The Guncle* asks the question: At what point does one stop being a kid? How is this explored in Maisie's and Grant's life? What about Patrick's?
4. Did you have a favorite Guncle Rule? If so, which one? How would you implement it in your own life? If you had to create a new Guncle Rule, what would it be?
5. JED are an unconventional—and hilarious—set of neighbors. How does the throuple play a role in this novel? What were some of your favorite moments with them?
6. Grief is a major theme throughout *The Guncle*. Discuss the different ways in which Patrick, Grant, and Maisie each learn to cope with their grief. How do Patrick's memories of Sarah come to impact all of them? Does the endless sunshine of Palm Springs help or hurt them in these darker moments?
7. Why do you think Emory is the first person Patrick considers opening his heart up to since Joe's death? How is Patrick now ready to explore a relationship?
8. By the novel's end, Patrick has decided to revive his acting career. Were you surprised by his choice of project? What type of performance would you love to see Patrick do?

9. Patrick is always his authentic self, something he draws on as a guncle. In what ways does he encourage the kids to celebrate their own unique qualities? Have you had a guncle or Auntie Mame–type figure in your own life? If so, what have you learned from them?

10. What do you think happens next for Patrick? For Grant and Maisie?

Questions from PRH Library

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