



Books

Book Club Questions for The Guncle by Steven Rowley



By Heather Caliendo
Published: October 28, 2021



This post contains links to products that I may receive compensation from at no additional cost to you. View my Affiliate Disclosure page [here](#).

Book club questions for *The Guncle* by Steven Rowley provides an in-depth look at this novel about grief and family. There will be **spoilers** so be sure to check out my spoiler-free review [first](#).

Join the Book Club Chat Newsletter

SIGN UP

Oh I just adored *The Guncle*! One of those novels that truly make you feel good. I loved Patrick and his relationship with his niece and nephew. It's a very moving story in many ways.

If you haven't read his previous novel, *The Editor*, yet. I highly recommend that one as well!

The Synopsis

Patrick, or Gay Uncle Patrick (GUP, for short), has always loved his niece, Maisie, and nephew, Grant. That is, he loves spending time with them when they come out to Palm Springs for weeklong visits, or when he heads home to Connecticut for the holidays. But in terms of caretaking and relating to two children, no matter how adorable, Patrick is, honestly, overwhelmed.

So when tragedy strikes and Maisie and Grant lose their mother and Patrick's brother has a health crisis of his own, Patrick finds himself suddenly taking on the role of primary guardian. Despite having a set of "Guncle Rules" ready to go, Patrick has no idea what to expect, having spent years barely holding on after the loss of his great love, a somewhat-stalled acting career, and a lifestyle not-so-suited to a six- and a nine-year-old. Quickly realizing that parenting—even if temporary—isn't solved with treats and jokes, Patrick's eyes are opened to a new sense of responsibility, and the realization that, sometimes, even being larger than life means you're unfailingly human.

With the humor and heart we've come to expect from bestselling author Steven Rowley, *The Guncle* is a moving tribute to the power of love, patience, and family in even the most trying of times.

Book Club Questions for *The Guncle*

1. Why did Greg ask Patrick to serve as the children's caregiver for the summer?
2. Through flashbacks, we learn how close Patrick and Sara were. What did you think about their friendship?
3. What was behind the tension and friction between Clara and Patrick?
4. Which 'Guncle Rule' is your favorite?

5. Let's talk about how Patrick shut himself off from the outside world after Joe died.
6. Why did he give up acting?
7. While there is a lot of humor in the book, there are plenty of poignant scenes as well. Which heartfelt scenes stuck out to you the most?
8. How did this experience taking care of Maisie and Grant help him process his own grief and also be accepting of love?
9. What did you think about the ending and Patrick's return to acting? Will the kids spend every summer with Patrick going forward?
10. What do you feel are some of the lessons from the book?
11. The book will be updated for film – so exciting! Who do you think should play Patrick and other key roles?

Additional Recommendations

Hope you enjoyed book club questions for *The Guncle*! Here are some more recommendations along with links book club questions.

The Editor by Steven Rowley



If you haven't read *The Editor* yet, go out and get it now! A fantastic book.

After years of trying to make it as a writer in 1990s New York City, James Smale finally sells his novel to an editor at a major publishing house: none other than Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Jackie—or Mrs. Onassis, as she's known in the office—has fallen in love with James's candidly autobiographical novel, one that exposes his own dysfunctional family. But when the book's forthcoming publication threatens to unravel already fragile relationships, both within his family and with his partner, James finds that he can't bring himself to finish the manuscript.