

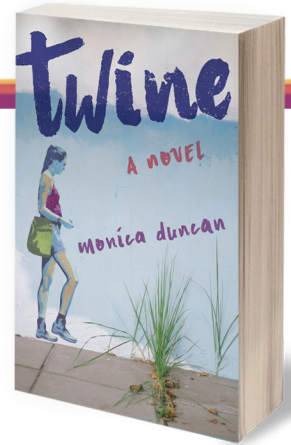
HIT THE BOOK CLUB



Thanks for choosing *Twine* for your book club pick, we know you're going to fall in love with it. Please note that some of the questions below may reveal important aspects of the plot, including the ending. We suggest you wait to review this guide until after you've finished the book. Enjoy!

xoxo BookSparks

#HITTHEBOOKCLUB



HIT THE BOOK CLUB WITH *TWINE* BY MONICA DUNCAN

1. Juniper is an artist. What gives a person the right to call themselves an artist—how they think and see the world, or only what they have produced? Do you in any way consider yourself an artist?
2. You know that Dahl is a good guy. You know Johnny is a bad guy. What about Kirk? What do you think?
3. There is a chapter in *Twine* entitled “Sub-Rural” and the term “subrural” is used to describe the area surrounding Gobles. What do you think this means? And is it more than just geography that defines a place as sub-rural?
4. What is great about the relationship between Cora and Juniper? Is it ever OK that a child (even a grown-up) behaves as more of a parent, unpending the parent-child dynamic?
5. What do you think about Five Women as a celebration of Juniper’s “family tree that don’t fork?” There are many short chapters in *Twine*. Was this too abrupt for you, or was it perfect for an author wanting to hold your attention in today’s world?
6. What did you think of the title? What does it mean to you?
7. Juniper is her own hero. “Empowerment” gets so much lip service, but how do we become empowered humans?
8. Our hurts and pains can really inhibit our ability to act freely and in our own best interests. For Juniper, empowerment is not just being strong and powering through external obstacles, but also having the courage to dive in and work and wade through her deepest internal obstacles to find freedom and love and joy. Do you relate to Juniper’s empowerment?
9. Alternately, how do we become disempowered? Gobles, Michigan is filled with people characterized by their wanting. There are not enough jobs, so there isn’t enough money, without enough money there isn’t enough education. These three factors in combination create a trap for people born into this environment. Who created the socio economic climate of subrural Michigan that is responsible for the disempowerment of its people?

10. Are we each individually responsible for our own disempowerment?
11. Is there a character in *Twine* who clearly feels disempowered?
12. One of the bigger conflicts in this novel is not the overt obstacles, but the assumptions of the reader. We assume that poor is bad, we assume that a place like Gobles is bad, we assume that a child like Clover is behind before she even starts her life.
What is it about Juniper's choices and attitudes that thwart our assumptions?