



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Vinyl Café Turns the Page by Stuart McLean

1. 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of *The Vinyl Café*. Do you remember listening to Stuart Maclean read his stories on CBC, or is this your first introduction to the world of Dave and Morley?
2. Dave and Morley's family inspire many stories. Which member of the family did you enjoy reading about the most and why?
3. *The Vinyl Café* is built on a strong sense of community. Do you feel communities like this still exist today?
4. One reason for the Vinyl Café's enduring popularity was McLean's ability to connect to everyday problems and stresses in Canadian life. What story did you relate to the most in this collection?
5. Stuart McLean passed away from melanoma at the age of 68. This is his last book before his death. Does this knowledge change the way you view this book?
6. Were there any times where the humour in these stories made you feel uncomfortable? Were there any stories you were not able to finish?
7. Stuart McLean's stories have been criticized for being too saccharine or out of touch with today's eclectic families. Is there value to "folksy tradition" rather than "serious literature"?
8. Do you feel McLean deserves the title "Canada's storyteller"? As McLean performed these stories for a family audience, what kind of impact do you think this had on his story development?

The above questions were written by Clarington Library, Museums & Archives staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Andrew Stuart McLean was a journalist, professor, radio host, author and humourist. He hosted the *Vinyl Café* weekly until 2016. He was an Officer of the Order of Canada. Born in Montreal, he attended Lower Canada College for high school and received his BA from Sir George Williams University.

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/stuart-mclean>

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