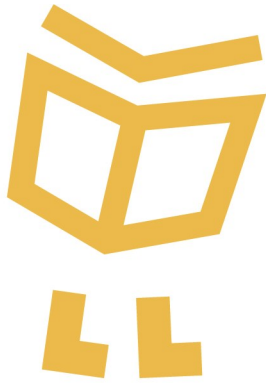


# BOOK CLUB in a bag



## Denison Avenue

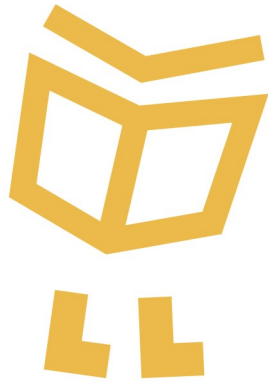
Christina Wong  
and Daniel Innes

### Discussion Questions

1. How does the setting of Denison Avenue shape the character's lives and interactions? What role does the neighbourhood play in shaping their identities and decisions?
2. How do the backgrounds, aspirations, and challenges of such characters Ellie, Mike, and Mary contribute to the overall narrative? How does each character's journey reflect broader themes in the novel?
3. How are loss, grief, and resilience portrayed throughout the novel? How do different characters cope with their personal tragedies, and what does this reveal about their personalities and inner strength?
4. How do familial bonds shape the characters' choices and perspectives? What insights does the novel offer about the complexities of family life?
5. What social issues does the novel address, and how are they portrayed through the characters' experiences? Consider topics such as economic hardship, addiction, and the impact of urban decline on communities.
6. How does the novel's narrative structure, which shifts perspectives between different characters, enhance your understanding of the story and its themes?
7. How does Stewart O'Nan evoke a sense of place in Denison Avenue? Discuss the importance of the setting in the novel and its impact on the characters lives.
8. How do literary devices including symbolic elements or recurring themes, contribute to the themes and overall mood of the story?
9. Explore the relationships between characters in the novel. How do these relationships evolve over time? What do they reveal about the characters' growth and development?
10. What messages or insights do you think the author aims to convey through this story and its characters?



# BOOK CLUB in a bag



## About the Author

**Christina Wong** is a playwright, prose writer, and a multidisciplinary artist who also works in sound installation, audio documentaries, and photography. Her plays have been performed at Factory Studio, Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace, and Palmerston Library Theatre. Her work has also appeared in *TOK Magazine*, the *Toronto Star*, and on CJRU 1280AM.

Christina grew up with the sights, smells, and sounds of Toronto's Chinatown and Kensington Market neighbourhoods, which have shaped her identity and view of the world.

## About the Illustrator

**Daniel Innes's** extensive portfolio includes painting, installation, graphic and textile design, illustration, sign painting, and tattooing. He uses traditional commercial art techniques, with a focus on the process. He has a special interest in creating works that have the possibility of an immersive physical experience.

Daniel was born in the north end of Toronto and has lived in the Spadina–Chinatown neighbourhood for over 20 years. Watching the neighbourhood change over the years has ended his love affair with Toronto. His time is now spent between Toronto and his studio (an artist residency project) in Hyōgo, Japan.

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