

PRETTY BABY Discussion Questions

*Please Note: Book Club Discussion Questions do contain spoilers.
Please wait to review the questions until after you've finished reading the novel.*

1. Both Heidi's and Willow's actions are fueled by their experiences with deep personal tragedy. Did you find them to be sympathetic characters? Are their offenses justified? Do you think they should be held responsible?
2. Who do you think is most to blame for Willow's abuse in her foster home: Joseph, the caseworker Amber Adler, or someone else? If you were in Willow's shoes, would you have tried to do something differently to remedy the situation?
3. Who is the hero in Pretty Baby, and who is the victim? Does this change throughout the novel?
4. What do you think of Chris's character? Is he a good husband? How does he contribute to the events that unfold in the novel? What could he have done to prevent Heidi's downfall?
5. Are Willow's feelings for Matthew genuine, or a result of having no one else in her life to trust? Do you foresee a time in their lives when Willow and Matthew will reunite, or would Willow be better off making a fresh start?
6. Are Zoe's dramatics typical of a preteen girl, or is she herself a character on the brink of becoming unhinged? Does her own behavior contribute to Heidi's undoing? Why or why not?
7. Heidi goes above and beyond to help Willow, a complete stranger. What would you have done in such a situation? How much are you willing to sacrifice to help someone you don't know? How far is too far?
8. What do you think is the significance of the title Pretty Baby?