

**TEEN BOOK CLUB**

*August 2019 Selection*

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***Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green**

Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her best and most fearless friend Daisy is eager to investigate. So together they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son Davis. Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts

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**Discussion Questions:**

1. *Turtles All the Way Down* is told in the first person. Why do you think this choice was made?"
2. What does Aza mean when she says, "You think you're the painter, but you're the canvas"? How does this statement influence your perception of this story? Do you ever feel a similar way?
3. Aza describes her lunch table as "a long-running play on Broadway," describing Mychal as "the Artsy One" and Daisy as her "Best and Most Fearless Friend," relegating herself to "the Sidekick." How does this description shape your view of Aza as a protagonist? What title would you give yourself among your group of friends?

4. How does the motto “Break Hearts Not Promises” relate not only to Daisy and Aza, but to all characters in the novel?
5. Davis and Aza both feel like their names define them. Think about your name—what do you think it says about you?
6. When explaining her childhood friendship with Davis, Aza says, “I mean, anyone can look at you. It’s quite rare to find someone who sees the same world you see.” Is there a person in your life who you think sees the world like you?
7. In the beginning of *Turtles All the Way Down*, Daisy says, “Everyone remembers you Holmesy...it’s not a value judgment. I’m not saying you’re good or generous or kind or whatever. I’m just saying you’re memorable.” What do you think makes Aza memorable? People in general?
8. When Aza says, “Whether it hurts is kind of irrelevant,” Davis declares it to be a pretty good life motto. How does this come into play throughout the novel? Do you agree or disagree with the statement?
9. Compare and contrast the idea of “I think therefore I am,” and “I am not my thoughts.” Can these two statements coexist? Why or why not?
10. Russell Pickett plans to leave his entire fortune and estate to his pet tuatara. Why does he prioritize his pet over his kids? What significance does the tuatara play in the novel?
11. What does Davis mean when he says, “Being vulnerable is asking to get used,” when he’s talking about the reward money for his father? Do you agree? Why or why not?
12. Aza describes her thoughts as many things— knotted loops, spirals, light-swallowing wormholes, and never straight lines. How would you describe your own thoughts?
13. Davis gives a \$100,000 reward to Aza and Daisy for not giving the photo of his father to the police. If you were in Aza and Daisy’s position, would you accept the money? Why or why not?
14. Discuss the dynamic of Daisy and Aza’s friendship. Is it on even ground? How do they support each other?
15. Discuss the nature of Aza and Davis’s relationship. Did you expect a real romance to develop? Why or why not? How do you feel about how it progressed?



16. Based on the anecdote Daisy shares about the phrase “turtles all the way down,” what does the title of this book mean to you?

**Review or Comment about this book:**

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**Recommendations:**

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- You might also enjoy *Looking for Alaska*  
(<https://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780142402511>)