

Hamnet - Book Club Meeting Pack

- Maggie O'Farrell



Meeting details

Date: _____
Time: _____
Host: _____
Location: _____
No. attending: _____

Book snapshot

Author: Maggie O'Farrell
Setting: Stratford-upon-Avon and London (16th century)
Vibe: Lyrical, intimate, grief and family

Suggested agenda (60-75 mins)

- 5 mins - One-word check-in (mood of the book)
- 10 mins - Favourite image or moment (no long quotes needed)
- 30-40 mins - Questions 1-6
- 10-15 mins - Questions 7-12 (spoilers more likely here)
- 2 mins - Vote: what should we read next?

Content notes

- Child illness and death
- Plague / epidemic themes
- Grief and trauma
- Pregnancy / childbirth references

Discussion questions + notes (1-6)

1. Agnes as a protagonist: how did you read her intuition and connection to nature?

2. Structure and time: did the shifting timeline deepen your connection or keep you at a distance?

3. Marriage: where did you see love, misunderstanding, or imbalance between Agnes and her husband?

4. Community and contagion: what does the novel suggest about invisible threads (trade, travel, gossip, germs)?

5. The twins: what does the story say about sibling bonds, identity, and being irreplaceable?

6. Silence and speech: who gets to speak openly about pain, and how do others communicate indirectly?

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Discussion continuation + wrap-up



Discussion questions + notes (7-12)

7. Place as character: which settings stayed with you, and how did location shape choices and mood?

8. Power and class: where do money, gender, or status limit options - especially in crisis?

9. Faith, folklore, and medicine: did the book judge these systems or simply observe them side by side?

10. Art from sorrow: how did you feel about transforming grief into a work that outlives the person?

11. Healing: by the end, what changes feel possible for Agnes - and what does not change at all?

12. Standout moment: which scene or image will you remember, and why did it lodge in your mind?

Wrap-up

Favourite quote / line (paraphrase or short extract):

Star rating (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

Next pick vote

Option A: _____

Option B: _____

Option C: _____

Winner: _____

Snacks and vibe (quick brainstorm)

Tea / coffee / something cosy? Theme ideas, snacks, or playlist notes:
