

S H R U G G I N G

# Book Club Readers Guide & Discussion Topics

## **NOTICE:**

The following page contains topics of discussion intended for the entire group **AFTER** everyone has finished reading. They include some mild spoilers, so you have been warned.

The book club leader should review the topics of discussion and present them to the group.



# Book Club Readers Guide & Discussion Topics

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

One person should lead the group on any or all of the below topics. It is important to let the group know that this is not a quiz and there are no right or wrong answers. The person leading the group should encourage members to elaborate on answers.

### OPTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION AFTER READING:

- 1) What might the Shrug represent?
  - a. Were one to identify the Shrug as the main protagonist, what “defeated” it and why?
  - b. What other characters may have been inflicted with their own version of the Shrug?
  - c. How does Jack’s “Routine” relate to this?
- 2) Discuss the opposing forces of religion and science as it relates to the story.
- 3) In what ways were Jack and Pauline good for each other? In what ways were they bad for each other?
  - a. Do Jack and Pauline have a future?
- 4) How did Jack’s accident provoke a change in Liz?
  - a. Discuss how she reacted to Jack’s accident compared to Len’s.
- 5) How does faith play into the narrative:
  - a. With Jack’s Mom?
  - b. With Pauline?
  - b. With Frig? With Mark?
- 6) Why does the tense switch from present to past tense at the end of the novel?
- 7) Why is Jack obsessed with touching things at the end of the novel?