

Theo of Golden: facilitator notes

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Whole-book spoilers. Facilitation notes, not an answer key.

Opening lens

Theo of Golden follows a newcomer whose quiet generosity changes encounters in a southern city. Portraits and the people connected to them give the group a concrete route into questions about being seen. It is worth asking what a gift does to its recipient, rather than simply praising the giver's intention.

Evidence method

Bring a chapter centered on one ordinary encounter. Note what each person knows about the other at the start and at the end. This keeps the discussion close to the novel's acts of attention. It also leaves room to ask whether a generous act can feel different from the two sides.

Minutes	Task	Book-specific starting point
0-5	Scope and pass option	What did the first description of Theo invite you to assume about a stranger in town?
5-15	Opening reaction	Which early object or place seemed likely to hold a story before you knew whose story it was?
15-30	People and relationships	Which encounter changes the recipient's sense of being seen? Look for an action or response rather than assuming the gift alone does the work.
30-45	Narrative choices	How does the book reveal identity through ordinary acts rather than a single declaration? Trace one detail that acquires meaning gradually.
45-55	The ending	How does knowing more about Theo alter the value of a gift already received? What remains meaningful without the later knowledge?

Minutes	Task	Book-specific starting point
55-60	One remaining question	End with the difference between doing good for someone and attending to who they are. Let one encounter, rather than a general lesson, carry the group's final response.

Group 1 chapter cue

Choose a chapter built around a portrait or its recipient.

Group 2 chapter cue

Find a conversation where a person reveals more than they expected.

Group 3 chapter cue

Bring a late chapter that changes what you understood about Theo's purpose.

Closing direction

End with the difference between doing good for someone and attending to who they are. Let one encounter, rather than a general lesson, carry the group's final response.

Edition and scope note

This pack concerns Allen Levi's Theo of Golden. The prompts are BiblioFiend's own work, separate from the author's reader guide. They do not ask participants to report a personal act of generosity or make a donation.

Source

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Theo-of-Golden/Allen-Levi/9781668236512> | Theo of Golden | Allen Levi | ISBN 9781668236512