

Discussion Questions for *Shaded Light*

1. Because you meet the individuals in *Shaded Light* prior to the murder, and then watch their reactions in the period following it and for a time after, you can see how the murder affects them and whether or not they change because of it. What if someone you knew died under suspicious circumstances? How do you think you might react? Do you think it would make you look at other people with more suspicion?
2. The first victim is not a person most of us would care for. So, in a sense, most readers heave a sigh of relief and feel almost sympathetic towards the murderer. But the second victim is another matter entirely. How did you feel when that body was discovered?
3. The saying, “You reap what you sow,” is quite common. Do you feel that’s true? Which of the characters in *Shaded Light* contributed to the negative things that happen to them and which ones are truly innocent victims?
4. Which of the characters in *Shaded Light* do you feel you have the most in common with, and why?
5. The title, *Shaded Light*, comes from the verse in 1 Corinthians that is quoted at the beginning of the epilogue. “For now we see through a glass darkly...now we know in part...” Nearly all of the characters have secrets they would prefer to keep hidden. Why do you think we have so much fear of others knowing the truth about us?
6. According to *Publishers Weekly*, Paul Manziuk and Jacquie Ryan are an odd team. Do you agree or disagree? How do you see them working together in the future? How many times have you been in a close relationship with someone who was very different from you, where it took a lot of effort from both of you to make it work?
7. On one of the character says that anyone could commit murder. Do you agree? What could make you consider murder?
8. There are a number of objects, metaphors and symbols in *Shaded Light*. The references to light and dark, the deerslayer fountain, the daisy chain, Shauna’s drawings...What was one thing that caught your interest?
9. Both Manziuk and Ryan are influenced by the picture in Manziuk’s office. How did you feel the picture contributed to the book?
10. Contrast the results of Peter’s belief that this life is all you get, so you need to live it to the max, and Lorry’s belief in a God who offers something intangible.