A READER DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERLOOK'D

A memoir by Don Lawson | For book clubs, libraries, and community conversations.

A story about survival.
A conversation about belonging.

OVERLOOK'D follows a life shaped by abandonment, foster care, homelessness, and the family whose open door helped change its direction. These questions invite discussion of the memoir and the relationships at its heart.

Before you begin

Choose the questions that fit your group. Readers may pass on any question. Keep the conversation grounded in the book; no one needs to share a personal experience of trauma.

Surviving and being seen

01 **What does the title OVERLOOK'D bring into focus?**

How does the title shape your understanding of being noticed, being understood, and being valued?

02 **Where do you see the difference between surviving and feeling safe?**

Consider how the memoir presents the habits a person develops to get through uncertainty.

03 **How does the adult narrator help you understand the child he once was?**

Discuss the relationship between looking back, telling the truth, and making sense of a life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What an open door can mean

Consider the difference between a place to stay and a place to belong.

04 **What does the family offer Don beyond shelter?**

Look for the roles of stability, dignity, accountability, and ordinary daily care.

05 **How does trust develop in the story?**

What makes care feel dependable? Consider repeated actions as well as memorable moments.

06 **How does the memoir complicate the idea of doing everything on your own?**

Discuss personal effort alongside the opportunities and relationships that make that effort possible.

07 **What does being chosen as family mean in this book?**

How do welcome, expectations, and belonging work together?

08 **Why might someone need a place to return as well as somewhere to turn?**

Consider how an ongoing relationship differs from a single act of help.

A question to carry through the conversation

Which ordinary act of care stays with you after reading, and what gives it meaning in the story?

FROM READING TO REFLECTION

Eighteen is not a plan

Reaching adulthood does not erase the need for family, guidance, somewhere to turn, and a place to return.

09 **What does the memoir reveal about leaving care without a dependable home?**

Stay with Don’s experience rather than assuming every young person’s story is the same.

10 **How does gratitude become a reason to act?**

Discuss the connection between what Don received and what he hopes to offer through Floyd’s House.

11 **What might steady care look like in a community?**

Consider the value of keeping commitments, listening, making room, and remaining present over time.

12 **What idea from the book would you want a reader to keep thinking about?**

Choose one question or insight to carry beyond this discussion.

The story continues

Floyd’s House is a nonprofit being developed to serve young adults aging out of foster care, with a stable home, practical support, and a place to feel wanted, valued, and not alone.

Learn about the work: www.floydshouse.org
Book and event information: donlawsonauthor.com
Invite Don to a conversation: don@donlawsonauthor.com