



# Colorado Book Club Resource

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE KOMOGAWA FOOD DETECTIVES BY HISASHI KASHIWAI

1. The book isn't just about cooking. How does each dish featured in the stories (e.g., *kitsune udon*, *oden*, *zōni*) serve as more than just food? What emotional or historical significance does it hold for the characters?
2. Many of the dishes could be considered Japanese comfort food. How does the book explore the idea of comfort food and its role in people's lives? Do you have any personal experiences with food bringing back memories or offering comfort, similar to the characters?
3. How does food act as a catalyst for the "detective work" in each story? In what ways does it help solve the mysteries or reveal hidden truths about the characters?
4. Kashiwai describes the food in vivid detail. Which descriptions particularly appealed to you? Did reading the book make you want to try any of the dishes?
5. Describe the dynamic between the main characters. What are their individual strengths and weaknesses, and how do they complement each other in their investigations?
6. The characters often solve problems by simply listening to people's stories. How does the book emphasize the importance of empathy and active listening in understanding others?
7. The setting of Komagawa seems to foster a strong sense of community. How does the book portray the importance of local businesses and neighborly connections in people's lives?
8. Are there any instances where the book explores generational differences in how food is prepared, traditions are viewed, or problems are approached?
9. The "mysteries" in the book are often subtle and revolve around personal dilemmas rather than dramatic crimes. What did you think of this approach? Did you find it engaging?
10. How would you describe the overall pacing and atmosphere of the book? Does it evoke a particular mood or feeling?
11. What insights did you gain into Japanese culture, beyond just the food, from reading this book?
12. Which of the "cases" or stories within the book resonated with you the most, and why?
13. What do you think is the overarching message or feeling that Hisashi Kashiwai wants to convey through *Komagawa Food Detectives*?

***Discussion questions generated by Gemini AI.***



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