



## Discussion Questions

# The Clueless Guide to Solving a Mystery (Book 1)

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1. Claudia continually emphasises that she is '(temporarily) living' at Boonside Heights Retirement Village, and also regularly mentions how long her parents have been done on their 'once-in-a-lifetime cruise'. How do you think she is feeling about not having heard from her parents in so long?
2. 'They are the cousins that everyone wishes they were related to. Especially me.' (p. 16). Why is Claudia so keen to be friends with Yasmin and Zayn?
3. While Claudia makes fun of the 'oldies', their many committees and the odd things they say and do, are she, Orpheus, Yasmin and Zayn really that different?
4. Gradually Claudia starts to learn quite a bit about what makes a good friend. What are some of the lessons she learns?
5. Beverly gives Claudia the advice, 'Be your own chip, Claudia Smith.' What do you think she means by this?
6. While Claudia tells a 'big fat fib' to Yasmin and Zayn, lots of the characters tell lies, either to make themselves look better or to make other people feel better. Is it ever okay to tell a lie?
7. Joyful Joyce's nickname makes fun of the fact that she's normally unhappy and complains about everything. Given what Claudia learns about Joyce during *The Clueless Guide to Solving a Mystery*, including the things that do make her smile, why do you think Joyce is so unhappy most of the time?
8. Do you think that Joyce and Edward will actually leave Boonside Heights Retirement Village/ Dreams Retirement Hotel?
9. The residents of Boonside are a little hesitant to try Mrs Bassal's food at first, as it's not familiar to them. However, many readers will be more familiar with sambousek than they are Carnation milk. Which food mentioned in the book would you most like to eat, and which would you prefer to avoid (you may need to do some research for things you're not familiar with)?
10. While Claudia and the committee are investigating the mystery of the cursive handwriting, quite a lot of intriguing or strange things happen or are mentioned during the events of the novel. What are some of the other mysteries the committee could be trying to solve?