

Book Club Questions for *Cutie Pies by the Slice*

Tropes

- Strong Female Protagonist
- Second Chance at Love

1. Lila comes to Lima hoping for a new beginning, but starting over requires more than simply leaving her old life behind. How does Lila change over the course of the novel, and what does she learn about creating a life of her own choosing?
2. Lila creates Cutie Pies by the Slice partly out of necessity, but the shop becomes much more than a business. What does the pie shop come to represent for Lila—and for the people who gather there?
3. Lila arrives in her new town in Ohio believing that family is the one thing she can depend on. How does her definition of family change over the course of the novel?
4. Agnes and Maggie become the sisters Lila never had. What do these friendships give Lila that her biological family cannot? Do you think chosen family can be as powerful as family by blood?
5. Lila sees Lima as a place where she can build a safe, ordinary life, yet its location makes it a natural crossroads for bootlegging during Prohibition. How does that contradiction between small-town security and hidden criminal activity affect the story? Does knowing that the shootout actually occurred in 1932 affect your answer? (Download *Speakeasies and Gangsters - The Real Shootout in Lima, Ohio in 1932*: <https://dl.bookfunnel.com/xaq8h26fxb>)
6. Let's talk about Vern. He earns Lila's trust while secretly using her business in ways she doesn't understand. Do you believe Vern genuinely cares for Lila despite his deception? Is Lila right to forgive Vern after his betrayal?
7. Lila's father and brother make choices that affect her life even when she has little control over them. How does the novel explore the tension between loyalty to family and responsibility for your own life?
8. Lawrence represents a very different possible future for Lila than Vern does. What does each man represent to her? How do her experiences with them change what she eventually wants from love?
9. The Great Depression and Prohibition create both limitations and unexpected opportunities for the characters. How might Lila's story have been different if she had lived in another time (for instance, today). Could *Cutie Pies by the Slice* take place in 2026?
10. Food repeatedly brings people together in the novel. Why do you think sharing food—particularly something as ordinary as pie and coffee—can create such a strong sense of community and belonging? How do you celebrate with food to bring people together?

11. Several characters make morally questionable choices for reasons they believe are justified. Which character was the most difficult for you to judge? Did your opinion of that character change as the story progressed?
12. Lila must decide whether broken trust can ever be repaired. Do you agree with the choices she ultimately makes about forgiveness? Is forgiveness the same thing as restoring trust?