

Book Group Discussion Questions for

Love on the Big Screen

1. What do you think of the way Zuke goes about trying to date Abby? Are there stories of the way relationships begin that you're willing to share? Is the way a relationship begins important?
2. The Brothers in Pursuit (Zuke, Cowboy, The Dini, Moon, and Flabby) are said to be in pursuit of God, knowledge, compassion and women. Do you see that in the book? What do you think of these guys? Would you want to be friends with them? Are they good dating material?
3. How does this writer write women? Would you consider any of the women especially strong, weak, or complex? Here are a few of their names to refresh your memory: Abby/Glory, Marie/Magic, Wendy/Bird, Lucy the waitress, and Professor Moore.
4. Have you seen any of the films mentioned in this movie—*Sixteen Candles*, *Say Anything*, *When Harry Met Sally*—or other films like them? Why are romantic comedies so popular? Do people on some level hope their lives can be like what they see in the movies? Does this create trouble in real-life relationships?
5. Many of Zuke's expectations for relationships have been created by the movies he loves. What has shaped your expectations for relationships? Do you think Zuke has learned anything by the time the novel ends? How has your understanding of romantic relationships changed over the years?
6. Was there someone that you hoped Zuke would end up with? Why? What makes a good couple?
7. Most of this book is set at a conservative Christian college. Does the author seem to have a take on Christianity? If most of these characters would say they are Christians, do they match up with your impression of the Christian faith? How are they like or not like the way you think of Christians?
8. The book contains many allusions literary and from the decade of the 80s both political and pop culture. For example, on p. 7, we read about a Cusack character, Jake Ryan, *Sixteen Candles*, Molly Ringwald, and Def Leopard. On p. 12 there is Saddam Hussein, The Great Communicator, and Shermer Boulevard (a John Hughes reference). How do these references affect your reading of the story? Are they just arbitrary or do they seem to be included for a reason?
9. What would you say about the way the author writes? Does he keep you turning pages? Where do you see him paying attention to choices connected to diction/language?
10. What do you think happens next? To Zuke? Abby? The Dini?
11. In another book, would you prefer to read about Zuke before he went to Pison College or after he gets out into the world, gets a job, and gets married?

