

Book club discussion questions for *Adulation*

1. Lorello writes Danny Masters in third person and Sunny Smith in first person, alternating POVs each chapter. What is the effect of this decision? Why tell the story from both characters' POVs?
2. A recurring theme in all of Lorello's novels is self-acceptance and authenticity. How is this theme explored/revealed in Danny and Sunny, respectively? How do the supporting characters (Georgie, Theo, Ella, Raj, Charlene, Josh) reflect or reinforce these themes?
3. What other themes do you find in this novel? Are they implicit or explicit?
4. Danny and Sunny spend most of the book apart, at opposite ends of the country. And yet, their lives seem to be interconnected. Do you think the story would've worked better had they directly interacted more throughout the story? Why or why not?
5. Why do neither Danny nor Sunny make more of an effort to find each other following their encounter in New York City?
6. Compare/contrast Danny's and Sunny's views on fame and adulation. In this day and age, is it possible to have a completely anonymous life?
7. What does the term "adulation" mean to you? What images does it conjure?
8. Teresa Flowers tells Danny, "You're free, if you let yourself be." What does she mean by this?
9. Should Sunny have stayed with Josh? Why or why not?
10. What effect does their past have on both Danny's and Sunny's present issues – such as love relationships, choices, and motivations? What role does Danny's present relationship with his daughter play in these choices and/or motivations?
11. Lorello loves to incorporate other forms of text into her novels. In *Adulation*, the story unfolds not only through narration, plot, and dialogue, but also through Sunny's 40 for 40 list, drafts of Danny's screenwriting, and online discussion forum comments. Why might Lorello include these kinds of texts? What function(s) do they serve?
12. If you were to pick up where the novel ends, what do you think would/should happen next? Realistically, how can a relationship like Danny's and Sunny's survive? Can it happen in the first place? Why or why not?