

# Jenga Novel Questions

Directions: As your group plays Jenga, look at the number written on each of the Jenga blocks that you pull. Match the block number to the question below. Read the question aloud and then answer it based on your reading of Jesmyn Ward’s *Salvage the Bones* or *Sing Unburied Sing*. You are allowed to ask your group for help if you need it.

Block Number	Question
1	Describe a scene where a character acted “out of character” in the novel. Why did they act this way at this particular moment?
2	What did the author make you curious about in this novel?
3	What are the protagonist’s most important traits?
4	How does the protagonist change in the novel?
5	What was the most surprising plot twist in the novel?
6	What was the most interesting scene in the novel? Why?
7	What would the protagonist most likely NEVER do?
8	What are the antagonist’s most important traits?
9	What motivates the protagonist?
10	What motivates the antagonist?
11	Pick a minor character. What is his or her function in the novel?
12	What symbols in the novel did you notice? What were their meaning?
13	Does the antagonist have any likable traits? Explain.
14	What are some of the themes of your novel? (Remember, themes are complete sentences, not ONE WORD answers)
15	What archetypes did you notice in your novel?
16	What point of view does the author write from? What is the function or purpose of this POV?
17	How was the book structured? (linear, frame, cyclical, etc.?)
18	What kind of tattoo would the protagonist choose for himself or herself? Why?

19	What was the “black moment” of the novel?
20	Were the characters’ problems realistic? Explain.
21	What was more important in the novel: characters or plot? Explain.
22	Was there redemption in the novel? How so?
23	Was the setting important to the story? How so?
24	What did you like about the book?
25	What did you dislike about the book?
26	What other books did this novel remind you of? How so?
27	What feelings did this book evoke for you?
28	Which character in the book would you most like to meet? Why?
29	How is the book’s title significant?
30	What was the author’s purpose in writing this book?
31	What made this book original and unique?
32	If you could hear this same story from another character’s point of view, who would you choose? Why?
33	Give a specific example of when a character in the novel was selfish.
34	Give a specific example of when a character in the novel was generous.
35	What caused the main character’s behavior to change?
36	What trait does the protagonist lack that you wish he or she had?
37	Did certain parts of the book make you uncomfortable? Why? What could be the author’s purpose for this?
38	How did the novel change your perception of an event, place, person, or time period?
39	What were the major conflicts in the novel?
40	Were there any parts of the novel that you didn’t understand?

41	What are the most important relationships in the book?
42	What are the most destructive relationships in the book?
43	What is the protagonist willing to fight for in the novel?
44	What song do you associate with a character? Why?
45	What aspect of our culture or society might the author be criticizing in the novel?
46	At what point in the novel is the tension the highest? Why?
47	What color do you associate with the protagonist and antagonist? Why?
48	Does the author develop a heroic ideal in this novel? How so?
49	Were any of the antagonist's actions justified? How so?
50	Did you find the ending satisfying? Why or why not.
51	How does the setting create a complication in the novel?
52	What moral or ethical choices did the characters in the novel have to make?
53	By the end, were there any characters you were disappointed in? Why?
54	Does the author's vision seem cautionary, humorous, optimistic, pessimistic, prophetic, satirical, venomous, or cathartic? Explain.