



# DEATH BEFORE DETENTION DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The book is written as a personal logbook by Mae. What are the advantages of the story being told in this style?
2. *Death Before Detention* takes place at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, a boarding school in the fictional Irish village of Ballymallooney. Why does this setting fit with genre conventions of cosy crime novels?
3. How does the Common Criminals Club experience attending a Catholic boarding school for girls differ from your experience of school? Would you want to attend a school like Our Lady of the Sacred Heart?
4. What were your first impressions of Mae, Shonda, Aoife, and Beck? Which of their unique skills do you think are good for solving the mystery?
5. At any point during the book did you have an idea of who might have committed the murders? Who did you suspect, and why? Were you correct?
6. How does the absence of modern technology, like mobile phones and the internet shape the way the club gathers information and communicates?
7. Did you find parts of *Death Before Detention* funny? Why does the author balance the serious murders with more humorous scenes?
8. How do the personal histories and secret lives of the adults at the school play into the mystery?
9. Mae discovers her friends have been keeping secrets because they think they are protecting her. What are other reasons people keep secrets? Does it help a friendship, or can it make things more complicated?
10. At one point Mae realises she might not be able to trust her friends. Have you ever had a moment where a misunderstanding made you doubt a friend, and how did you resolve it?
11. At the climax of the novel, what things happen to ramp up the tension for readers? Think about changes in weather, atmosphere and any incidents that happen in the lead up to it.
12. Why do you think the members of the Common Criminals' Club were more successful at solving the mystery than Mae's cousin Joey and the professional Guards?

