

Broke *in* America

Seeing, Understanding, *and* Ending US Poverty

Book Club Discussion Guide

We wrote *Broke in America* to get people talking about poverty and working to end it. We are happy to provide this discussion guide to get you started. Joanne and Colleen are also available to do virtual discussions with book clubs and reading groups. To find out more contact lindsay@benbellabooks.com

1. The authors argue that poverty isn't the fault of people in it. Do you think they made their case?
2. How did you view poverty before reading this book? Did *Broke in America* change your view of poverty in the U.S.? If so, how?
3. What individual stories moved you?
4. How have you seen the media cover poverty in the U.S.? Do you think the current coverage is adequate? Why or why not?
5. The book talks about barriers that people face in meeting their basic needs. Which of those basic needs chapters had the biggest impact on you? Did anything surprise you about the obstacles people are confronted with when it comes to obtaining basic necessities?
6. Did you recognize your own community in any of the stories?
7. What was the most surprising thing that you learned in the book?
8. Talking about topics like racism and sexism is difficult. Do you think that the book creates an opportunity to open discussions on those topics?
9. What's the overall feeling that the book left you with (i.e. anger, hope, etc.)?
10. Did the book make you want to take action? Is that something that your reading community could collaborate on? What next step can you take to fight poverty?
11. Do you think the last section prepared you to be an advocate? What other skills/resources do you need to make change?

