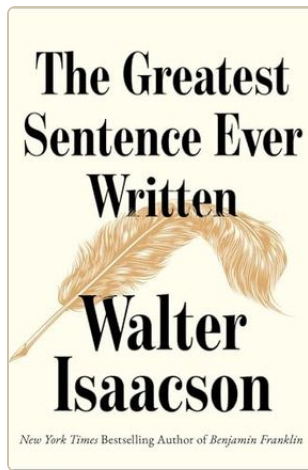


BOOK CLUB NIGHT KIT



The Greatest Sentence Ever Written

Walter Isaacson

🌙 COZY NIGHT

Walter Isaacson takes one famous line from the Declaration of Independence and unpacks the ideas inside it, which gives your club a warm, rich conversation starter about what we hold dear. It's a good pick for a relaxed evening where everyone can bring their own sense of home, fairness, and hope.

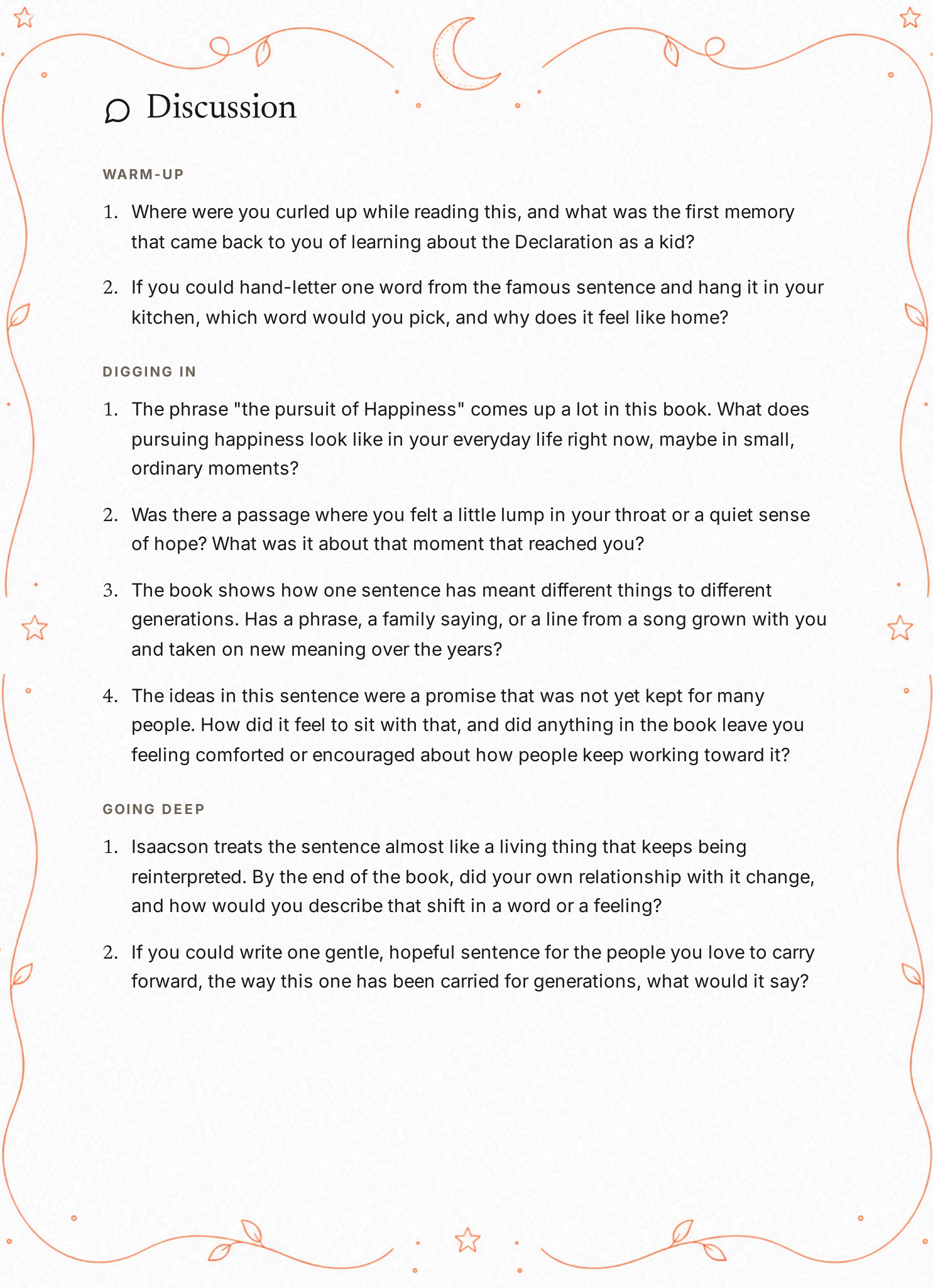
Pull Up a Chair: Life, Liberty, and Apple Crisp

Come in from the cold for warm cider, pot pie, and a gentle conversation about *The Greatest Sentence Ever Written*. Bring your coziest socks and a memory or two about what "home" and "happiness" mean to you.

Reading level: Moderate

Best for: Friendly, curious clubs who like slow, meaningful conversations over tea and pie more than point-scoring debates





Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Where were you curled up while reading this, and what was the first memory that came back to you of learning about the Declaration as a kid?
2. If you could hand-letter one word from the famous sentence and hang it in your kitchen, which word would you pick, and why does it feel like home?

DIGGING IN

1. The phrase "the pursuit of Happiness" comes up a lot in this book. What does pursuing happiness look like in your everyday life right now, maybe in small, ordinary moments?
2. Was there a passage where you felt a little lump in your throat or a quiet sense of hope? What was it about that moment that reached you?
3. The book shows how one sentence has meant different things to different generations. Has a phrase, a family saying, or a line from a song grown with you and taken on new meaning over the years?
4. The ideas in this sentence were a promise that was not yet kept for many people. How did it feel to sit with that, and did anything in the book leave you feeling comforted or encouraged about how people keep working toward it?

GOING DEEP

1. Isaacson treats the sentence almost like a living thing that keeps being reinterpreted. By the end of the book, did your own relationship with it change, and how would you describe that shift in a word or a feeling?
2. If you could write one gentle, hopeful sentence for the people you love to carry forward, the way this one has been carried for generations, what would it say?

On the table & to sip

TO EAT

Colonial-style Chicken Pot Pie

A golden, flaky crust over a creamy filling, the kind of hearty dish that fed households in colonial Pennsylvania. One big dish feeds the whole table and makes the room feel like home.

Baked Macaroni and Cheese

Thomas Jefferson is often credited with helping popularize macaroni in America. A bubbling, cheesy pan of it is indulgent comfort food with a nice historical wink.

Warm Apple Crisp with Whipped Cream

Apples were a staple of early American orchards and kitchens. A cinnamon-scented crisp is easy to make ahead and fills the house with a welcoming smell.

TO SIP

Hot Mulled Apple Cider (no alcohol)

Cider was an everyday drink in colonial America. Simmer it with cinnamon sticks, cloves, and orange peel for a cozy, family-friendly cup.

Spiked Cider with Dark Rum

Rum was everywhere in the colonies. A splash in warm cider makes a toasty, gently indulgent mug for guests who want one.

A Small Glass of Madeira

This fortified wine was a favorite in wealthy colonial households. A little pour pairs nicely with dessert and gives a toast to the founding era a sense of occasion.



Run of show

7:00

Arrive and Settle In

Have cider simmering on the stove, the playlist on low, and blankets on the couch. Hand everyone a warm mug as they walk in.

7:20

Comfort Food Supper

Serve the pot pie and mac and cheese family style. Keep the chat casual and catch up on each other's weeks.

7:50

Warm-Up Questions

Start with the two warm-up questions while people are still at the table. Let everyone share a memory, with no pressure to have read every page.

8:10

Heart of the Conversation

Move to the cozy seating area for the theme questions. Pass a question card around and let whoever feels moved answer first.

8:45

Dessert and Trivia

Bring out the warm apple crisp and optional Madeira. Play the trivia just for fun, in teams, with no score pressure.

9:10

Deep Questions and Bookmarks

Close with the two deep questions, then fill out scorecards and hand out bookmarks as a take-home keepsake.

HOST TIPS

- Keep the conversation on personal meaning rather than politics. If things start to heat up, gently steer back to how the book made people feel.
- Make the pot pie and apple crisp the day before so you're relaxed and present when guests arrive.
- Set out a small stack of index cards so quieter guests can write down a thought and share it whenever they're ready.



♪ Playlist

Soft, hopeful Americana and folk, with gentle fiddles and warm acoustic guitars playing quietly in the background

- 01 Ashokan Farewell - Jay Ungar and Molly Mason

- 02 Appalachia Waltz - Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, Mark O'Connor

- 03 America - Simon & Garfunkel

- 04 American Tune - Paul Simon

- 05 This Land Is Your Land - Woody Guthrie

- 06 Teach Your Children - Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young

- 07 People Get Ready - The Impressions

- 08 Blowin' in the Wind - Bob Dylan

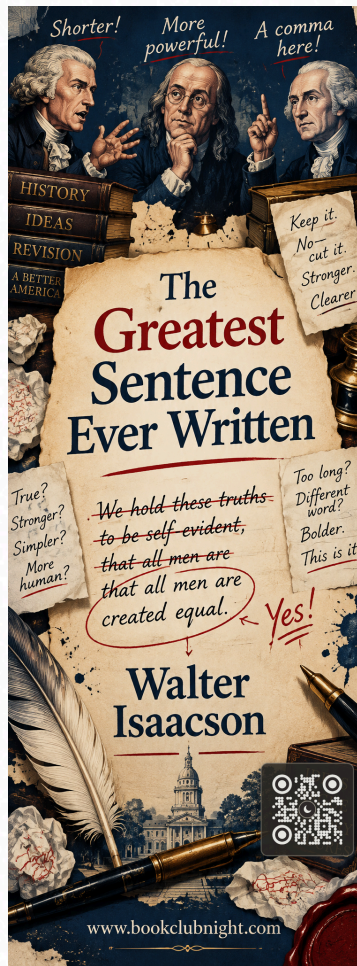
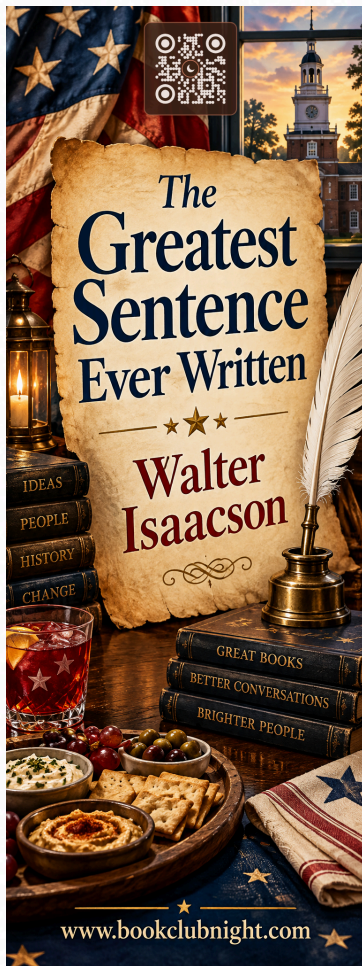


✧ Trivia

1. Who is known as the main drafter of the Declaration of Independence? (Thomas Jefferson)
2. In what city was the Declaration of Independence adopted? (Philadelphia)
3. On what date in 1776 did the Continental Congress adopt the final text of the Declaration? (July 4, 1776)
4. Name the five members of the committee assigned to draft the Declaration. (John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman)
5. Which three unalienable rights are named in the famous sentence? (Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness)
6. What milestone anniversary of the Declaration did the United States mark in 2026? (Its 250th anniversary (the Semiquincentennial))
7. Walter Isaacson has written biographies of which famous founding father who helped edit the Declaration? (Benjamin Franklin (Benjamin Franklin: An American Life))
8. Name two other people Walter Isaacson has written major biographies about. (Any two of Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs, Leonardo da Vinci, Jennifer Doudna, or Elon Musk)

❏ Bookmarks

Print, cut, and tuck one at every seat, a small keepsake from the night.



☆ Rate the book

Coziness of the Read

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Hope It Left Me With

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Heart-Tug Moments

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Ease of Storytelling

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Would Share With a Loved One

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

One word this book left in my heart: _____

A small thing that makes my own pursuit of happiness feel real:

I'd read this again curled up with: _____

THAT'S A WRAP

Thank you for coming

We hope the company was good and the conversation even
better. Until the next chapter.



Plan your own book club night

Scan the code or visit **bookclubnight.com**

Book Club Night