



## Suggested discussion questions for The Decorating Club, by Susan M. Meyers

1. You uncover a time capsule that you created when you were 18 years old.
  - What five things represented your life back then? How many still do? Why?
  - What five things representing your life today would you place in a time capsule?
2. **Chapter 1:** Sarah and Tommy decided to move; changing not only their location but their lives.
  - Of the several reasons mentioned, what do you think was their main motive?
  - How would you react if your spouse unexpectedly said they felt it was time to move?
  - How would your spouse react if it were you?
3. **Chapter 3:** Sarah shared her belief that a home should represent the people who live there.
  - If a movie were made based on the story reflected in your home, what would the title be?
4. **Chapter 7:** Jackie feels like she's lost her purpose because her children have grown up and left home.
  - What did you think about Sarah's comment, "...there's a lot of empty nests around my house and I've yet to see a mother bird just sitting there waiting for her chicks to return"?
5. **Chapter 9:** It seems like making wedding gowns was a natural fit for Jackie based on how she was raised and what she enjoyed doing.
  - What one experience or person had a significant influence on the person you are today; why?
6. **Chapter 9:** Sarah explains her 3D strategy of transforming flat and boring 1 dimensional rooms into vibrant spaces overflowing with atmosphere.
  - Now it's your turn, tell us what you would do with your space.
  - Is it based on a memory of where you've been or is it somewhere you've always wanted to go?
  - Walk us through the 5 senses and tell us how it makes you feel.
7. **Chapter 11:** Sarah makes the point that sometimes we hang on to stuff that clutters up our homes and our lives.
  - Do you agree? If so, why do you think it happens? If no, how do *you* prevent it from happening in your life?
  - What did you think of Sarah's *big black bag strategy*?
8. **Chapter 12:** Maggie regained control of her life when she made a connection between the effect of what she eats and what she thinks on who she is as a person.

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- James Allen in his book *As a Man Thinketh*, states: “A man’s mind may be likened to a garden, which may be intelligently cultivated or allowed to run wild; but whether cultivated or neglected, it must, and will, bring forth. Do you agree? Why?
  - Why do you believe Maggie was able to succeed?
9. **Chapter 15:** Tricia’s uncle shared his keys to success with her her dad and brothers. Yet, with all that valuable wisdom came a warning that Tricia said she will always remember.
- What are your thoughts on what he had to say? Why?
10. **Chapter 16:** Paul appreciates creativity not only in advertising but in life as well - *turning little moments into some of the most memorable*, and this mentality is also reflected in his favorite quote.
- What did you think about the way Tricia told him her big news?
11. **Chapter 17:** Brittany is an example of someone who appeared to place value on all the wrong things and upon ‘waking up’ did a complete 180; and totally cleared out her home. Like Maggie, she realized the importance of starting over again but this time with a clean fresh pallet.
- If you were given the opportunity to go in and take one thing from her home what would it be?
12. **Chapter 18:** Tabatha, a former cheerleader for the Dallas Cowboys continues to motivate.
- Give examples of who has benefitted from her encouragement.
13. **Chapter 19:** Thankful Thursday provided an opportunity for the women to share ...first Tricia thanking Maggie for helping her unlock the door to focus on the good in her life, replacing fear with thankfulness. Next was Sarah’s turn as she told everyone how Tricia inspired her to take back her own life starting with her love for tennis.
- What did you think about Sarah’s idea to have a Thankful Thursday get together?
14. **Chapter 22:** Reshma deserves an academy award for her acting role. In reality she forgot where she came from and who she really is. Our childhood lays the foundation for our lives; building on top of memories and experiences that carry us through to adulthood shaping the person we become.
- Let’s pretend you are being interviewed for a very unique job and the first question you’re asked is to describe the view outside the door of the home where you were raised.
  - Now share what role that played in you becoming the person you are today.
15. **Chapter 24:** Sarah more than anyone realized just how hard change can be. Yet, she also realized that sitting still is not the answer. The Decorating Club provided her the opportunity to help and support others and during the process it gave new meaning to her life.
- What was your reaction to Sarah’s answer at the closing of the television interview when Sarah was asked what’s next?