

Great Books Discussion Group
Discussion Questions for *rabbit, run*

1. Updike attempts to make Rabbit's personality seem flighty, or at least spontaneous. Does he succeed in making his personality seem flighty? Does Rabbit seem believable?
2. Is Rabbit a metaphor for modern man? Does he seem lost and overwhelmed? Does the metaphor work?
3. Is the character of Janice likeable? Before the death of the baby, did you think that Janice was as bad as she was made out to be by Rabbit?
4. What is Eccles trying to get from Rabbit? Is he successful? Is Eccles lacking something as a human being; if so, what is he lacking? Do you admire him; why or why not?
5. Why is Rabbit attracted to Ruth? Is she an attractive person, physically, emotionally or spiritually?
6. Rabbit seems to run from responsibility when things get too difficult. Is a rabbit a good metaphor for Harry Angstrom? Would another animal have been better (say a chicken or a weasel)?
7. Why does Rabbit turn around after he leaves home for the first time? Is he afraid to actually leave? Is he afraid to stay? What isn't he afraid of (besides basketball)?
8. Does Updike ever imply that Rabbit needs to accept responsibility for his own destiny (not to mention the destiny of others whose lives he touches)?
9. Why does Rabbit blurt out that Janice killed the baby at the funeral?
10. Why is the title of the book not in capital letters? Does this imply something about the main character?