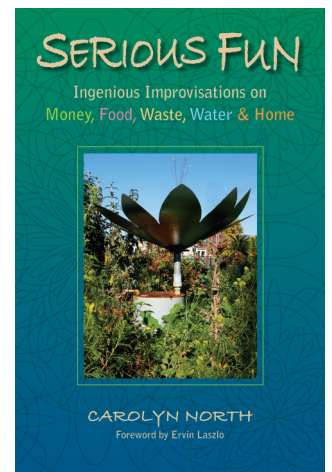




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Suggestions for Book Club Questions on *Serious Fun*

1. Each chapter starts with a personal story about the topic: Money, Food, Waste, Water and Home. Can you recall a story from your own life on each of these topics?
2. What information was new to you; what did you already know? (eg banking system; fresh water; sludge etc.) What steps are each of you taking in your own life?
3. Go outside the house where you are meeting, and look at the roads and sidewalks. Imagine they had neither pavement, asphalt, nor cars and were just grassy earth. How might you design a vegetable, flower and herb garden in that space?
4. What do you think the premise of the book is? Do you agree; disagree? Why?
5. How many of your neighbors do you know well enough to have heard their stories? What stories have you heard from them? If they asked, do you have stories that you would tell them?
6. Starting with some of the funnier ideas in the book, (eg pee-peeponics; toxic bioremediation with oyster mushrooms, etc) can you brainstorm together and dream up others?
7. Projects involving children: Take a group of small children to a local playground or park or beach, etc to pick up paper trash; make a party of creating bread sculptures; do a weed-identifying walk; build forts out of large cardboard cartons. Dream up your own games.
8. Plan a leftover Challenge meal. At your next meeting, each person starts with actual leftovers from their kitchen, and creates a delicious dish that is brought to share. Make enough so that everyone goes away with “planovers” and be prepared to explain what leftover you started with, and how you used that to create your offering.
9. Plan Imagination teasers: Each person brings one throwaway item from home, and the group turns it into something else that is ingenious and useful. Eg an old sweater can be unraveled back into threads; an old lamp becomes a planter; a lightbulb?? Old wristwatches?? Used toothbrushes??
10. Group project: everyone brings in several found items - like odd pieces of wood, string, rubber bands, seashells and stones, a brass doorknob etc. and together you create an art piece from the items, scrounging around for more as the sculpture begins to unfold and find its form. When you are happy with the wild result, photograph it, write about the process: what you learned; what was frustrating and what was fun, etc, and post it on the “Serious Fun Interactive” section of the author’s blog: <http://carolynnorth.blogspot.com>

Get new ideas from other book clubs!

Have fun!
Carolyn North