

***Heartstopper* vol. 1 by Alice Oseman (2019)**

**Discussion Questions**

What does it mean to be gay?

Why do you love the gender/genders/people you love?

In the book, Ben and Charlie were in a toxic relationship. Why do you think Charlie didn't leave?

Charlie goes to an all-boys school. How do you think that would complicate being gay?

How do you tell the difference between romantic and platonic feelings with your friends?

In the book Charlie is commonly described as popular for being gay but is still isolated by most of the people he interacts with. Why do you think this is?

Ben assaults Charlie over the course of the story. How, if at all, is this abuse different from instances of abuse in straight relationships? Would you think about this differently if Charlie was a woman, or if Ben was?

How are relationship dynamics different in a gay relationship compared to a straight relationship? How are they the same?

How does Alice Oseman use queer labels to define her characters (ie. Nick)? Do you think using specific labels helps more or hurts more in describing people? Why?

Charlie is romantically involved with both Nick and Ben over the course of the book. What makes those two interactions different? How are they drawn differently?

List some of the major takeaways you had from reading this book.

How did *Heartstopper* benefit from being originally created as a graphic novel, as opposed to a prose work, or a film?