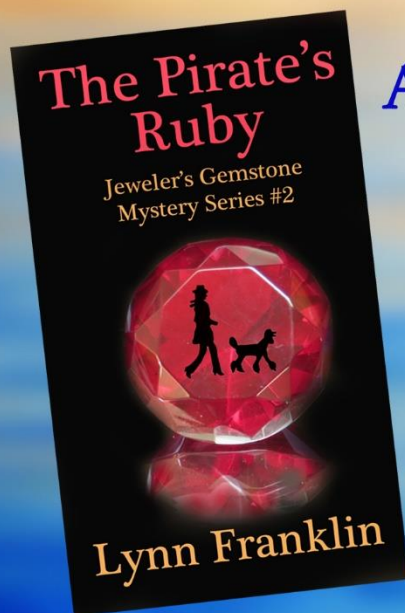


Book Club Discussion Questions



An Ancient Ruby's Trail of Death

In a small beach town, a day that begins with a treasure hunt ends in murder.

LynnFranklin.com

1. When they were children, Kim and Mary formed a special bond that lasted into adulthood. Do you have childhood friendships that continue as an adult? What makes these friendships so special?	4. Brittany treasured the pirate's ruby amulet in part because it had been passed from generation to generation. Discuss the role of family heirlooms – jewelry and otherwise – in your family.
2. The media are full of stories about childhood bullying. Most of these stories focus on boys. Yet, as Kim and Mary found, girl bullies can be every bit as destructive. Discuss the difference between boy and girl bullies. How would you advise your own children to deal with bullies?	5. Psychologists have determined that people are better able to process information if it is told in story form. Throughout the book, the author weaves stories about gemstone history, legend and lore. What were your favorite gemstone stories from the book? Which stories surprised you?
3. Kim wonders why pirates like Stede Bonnet captured public imagination when they were essentially bullies, thieves and murderers. Why do you think people are attracted to the notion of pirates?	6. At the end of the book, Kim has the opportunity to seek revenge on the bully from her childhood. Yet she chooses to not reveal Brittany's real heritage. Do you agree or disagree with Kim's decision?

Reader's Comments:

“These are characters so real you want to call them up and visit. And get invited for dinner.” – Cheree

“A perfect whodunit with characters you will love and a plot that keeps you guessing until the end. Could not put it down.” – T. Alion

“Reminiscent of Dick Francis who could take us into specialties such as precious stones, banking and glassblowing, all while writing his stories about his familiar horses. Or, in the case of author Franklin, our dogs.” -- Karen Harbert: Author of the ‘Murder at the Dog Show’ series