Fight Club discussion questions

Chapter 1:
- What’s happening in the opening scene? (11-15)
- What’s Tyler’s argument, and what does it suggest?
- From what we can tell so far, what seems to be the narrator’s relationship to Tyler?

Chapter 2:
- Why does the narrator go to the testicular cancer support group?
- Who is Big Bob? (21-22)
- Who is Marla? (18, 23)
- What role is the narrator playing? How does he feel when he cries? (17)

Chapter 3:
- This chapter covers a variety of things such as travel, movies, and pornography—what might those have in common?
- What is the narrator’s job, and what might it suggest? (30)
- What feelings pervade the chapter, and what’s the narrator’s attitude toward life? (31)
- What happens at the beach? (32-33)

Chapter 4:
- Why does Marla go to support groups, and what deal does she make with the narrator? (38-39)
- Why does it matter if Marla is there?

Chapter 5:
- What happens at the airport? (40-44)
- What happens to his apartment? What was it like before? What is his tone describing it? What lines about it stand out to you? (40-45)
- What is the narrator’s relationship with Tyler like on page 46?

Chapter 6:
- How is being in Fight Club somewhat like Tolle’s ideas about breaking free from the grip of the ego? Consider, for example, what’s Fight Club’s relation to gossip, self enhancement, resentment, and role playing. (48-51)
- How is the first fight with Tyler (and how is Fight Club in general) like what Tolle calls “a limit situation” (Tolle 56) where a person experiences insight through loss (Palahniuk 52-54)?
- What seems to be the significance of fathers to Fight Club? (50, 53-55) How is this topic (parents) connected with ideas in Tolle’s philosophy as well? (Tolle 100)
Chapter 7:
- What’s the living situation like and the triangle like between the narrator, Tyler, and Marla? And what happens to Marla at the Regent Hotel? (56-62)

Chapter 8:
- How does this chapter in *Fight Club* (63-65, 69) echo Tolle’s claim that “There are people who have renounced all possessions but have a bigger ego than some millionaires” (44)?
- What leads the narrator to say, “What I’m feeling is premature enlightenment” (70)?

Chapter 9:
- Describe the kind of “guided meditation” (75) the narrator experiences in this chapter. What significance does the “little act of rebellion” (75) hold for the narrator? (74-77)
- What might Tolle think of the significance of this “little act of rebellion”?

Chapter 10:
- What examples of rebellion occur in this chapter, and why? (79-85) For Tolle, what might be the significance behind the line “everything is more fun as a shared activity” (Palahniuk 84)?

Chapter 11:
- What’s the significance behind the soap, and how does the topic resonate with ideas from Tolle? (Palahniuk 87, 89-93)

Chapter 12:
- What’s the narrator’s behavior like at work? (95-99)
- How might the narrator’s attitude toward his boss seem ego-driven to Tolle? (Palahniuk 98-99)
- What knowledge of the narrator gives him an edge at work? (99)

Chapter 13:
- What is Marla worried about (104) and what’s the point of the narrator’s story about his birthmark? (104-105)

Chapter 14:
- How does the end of this chapter show some resemblance with Tolle’s ideas? Since Tolle says, “We need to honor the world of things, not despise it” (36-37), how is this chapter markedly different from Tolle’s ideas as well?
Chapter 15:
• When the narrator says, “This would have heroic scale” (116), what plan does he have in mind? On the same note, what is his scheme regarding Tyler’s projectionist job and his Pressman Hotel job? (112-17)

Chapter 16:
• In this chapter, the narrator says, “maybe I needed to move on to something bigger. It was that morning, Tyler invented Project Mayhem” (123). Describe Project Mayhem’s purpose and activities, and explain how it relates with Tolle’s ideas about the ego. What are a couple lines in this chapter that stand out the most to you?

Chapter 17:
• Describe Project Mayhem as an organization. What’s it like becoming and being a member of the group? (127-135)

Chapter 18:
• When the mechanic picks up the narrator at work, what’s the message of the “Tyler Durden dogma” (141)?
• When the mechanic screams a series of “nots” on pages 143-44, what are some notable examples, and how does their message compare with Tolle’s ideas?
• What happens at the end of this chapter? (145-147)

Chapter 19:
• Why does the mechanic say “We have a spiritual depression” (149)?
• How is Project Mayhem like a terrorist group? (149-150)

Chapter 20:
• What happens to Raymond K. Hessel? (151-55)

Chapter 21:
• What does the narrator discover, and what was your reaction to it? (156-161)
• How does this twist in the plot resonate with Tolle’s ideas in the chapters “The Voice in the Head” (30-34) and “Pathological Forms of the Ego” (118-120)? What are some key examples or lines from Tolle that stand out in comparison with what we discover in chapter 21 in Fight Club?

Chapter 22:
• What happened to the police commissioner and why? (162-66)
• What details about the narrator’s relationship with Tyler do we learn? (167-168)
Chapter 23:
- What is the point behind naming, and what are some examples? (171)
- What do we know about the narrator’s name? (172, 168)
- What additional details do we learn about Tyler? (172-75)

Chapter 24:
- What happens to Big Bob? (176-177)
- How does the narrator respond, and what happens to his control? (178-80)

Chapter 25:
- What’s Marla’s dating history like, and what does it suggest about the narrator? (181-183)

Chapter 26:
- What happens to the narrator’s boss and why? (185-186)
- What’s happens on the bus and why? How is the punishment symbolic, and how does it echo the beginning of the novel (chapter 2)? (187-191)

Chapter 27:
- Just how unaware of himself does the narrator seem to be? (194-196)

Chapter 28:
- What are the three fights like and why? (198-201)

Chapter 29:
- What happens on top of the Parker-Morris Building? (203-205)

Chapter 30:
- What seems to have happened at the end? Where is the narrator? (206-208)