Discussion Questions for *The Casual Vacancy* by J.K. Rowling
(Most questions taken or adapted from http://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/13-fiction/8940-casual-vacancy-rowling)

1. Before reading, did you have certain expectations for this book based on the Harry Potter series? How were your expectations met or unmet?

2. The book has more than 30 main characters. Did you have trouble keeping them and their storylines in order?

3. Did you find the characters believable? Which of the characters did you like the most? Which did you dislike?

4. Did you find the dialog in the story realistic? Do you think the profanity, violence and sex is excessive and sensational? Is Rowling trying to prove that she can write for adults or does it enhance the plot?

5. Which storyline with which characters is your favorite and why? Least favorite?

6. Rowling describes the book as a “comic tragedy;” her publisher called it a “black comedy.” Do you agree with these descriptions? Do you find her wit on display in the book?

7. Some reviewers and readers complain that the plot is slow to get off the ground and drags in some parts. What do you think?

8. What did you think of the plot line development? Did the plot take turns you did not expect, or did you find it predictable?

9. Before the success of Harry Potter, Rowling had experiences with poverty. Does knowing this increase the creditability of the Krystal character and others in the Fields?

10. How does this book relate to life in Galesburg and the United States in October 2012, if at all?

11. In interviews, Rowling said that she felt she “had to write” this book and that it’s very personal to her. Does the fact that it feels so personal to the author make it a better book or a worse one?

12. Is the ending satisfying?

13. Are there questions you would like to ask?