Book Club Discussion Topics for *Cheeseland*

- Danny and Lance are clearly quite different in personality and character. How did these differences serve to both bring them together and to pull them apart?

- Danny wonders how is life might be different if he'd never met Lance. This is a contemporary spin on the *It's a Wonderful Life* theme of how one man's life touches so many others. Can one person have a profound influence on who you are and what you become? How might Danny be different if he had never met Lance?

- How does the friendship between Danny and Lance resemble your own friendships from high school? What are the redeeming aspects of each character, and what makes them worth following throughout the novel, despite their faults?

- This novel explores male relationships – how boys and men interact with one another. Did the interactions between Danny and Lance seem real and believable? Did the actions that they took seem plausible? Why? Why not? How might the novel be different from a feminine perspective?

- This novel examines serious, complicated issues involving suicide and sexual molestation. Does the author address these issues accurately and appropriately? Is there a lesson to be learned from the novel? Do societal taboos hinder open discussion about these kinds of issues?

- Did certain parts of the book make you uncomfortable? If so, why did you feel that way? Did this lead to a new understanding or awareness of some aspect of your life you might not have thought about before?

- The novel also looks at the issue of retribution and vengeance. Buck poses the question, "Is it easy to just walk away when we've been wronged?" What do you think the author is trying to get across to the reader? Why do you think Danny is drawn to Buck while Lance is repelled?

- How does the setting figure into the book? Is the setting a character? Does it come to life? Did you feel you were experiencing the time and place in which the book was set?

- Did the book end the way you expected? Was the ending satisfying? How might you have ended it?