Discussion Guide for *Adjusting to Life in the USA* Book Club & Discussion Questions By Selma Toporan | Aspire USA Coaching

These questions are for book clubs, ESL classrooms, and community groups who want a flexible, chapter-free format to discuss themes from *Adjusting to Life in the USA*. Use this guide to spark reflection, conversation, and connection among readers. The questions are designed for readers of all backgrounds and experiences with U.S. culture.

General Discussion Questions

- 1. What was your first impression of the United States when you arrived? Has it changed over time?
- 2. The author shares this statement in her videos, "You're not failing you're adapting." How does this statement help you reframe your experience?
- 3. What challenges did you face in the beginning that now feel easier? What helped you improve?
- 4. How does American communication feel different from what you were used to in your home country?
- 5. What are some unspoken cultural rules you had to learn by experience?
- 6. How have you dealt with feelings of isolation or homesickness while living in the U.S.?
- 7. What are some ways you've started to feel a sense of belonging or community here?
- 8. How do you balance keeping your culture while adapting to American life?
- 9. What small habits or systems have helped you feel more confident or organized in your new life?
- 10. What advice would you give to someone just arriving in the U.S. today?

Bonus Prompts for Conversation

- Share a funny or confusing moment you experienced because of a cultural misunderstanding.
- Talk about a person who helped you feel welcome in the U.S. What did they do that made a difference?
- What does "home" mean to you now?