

ESL Book Club 2024 – May Discussion Questions

Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

Discussion Date: May 3, 2024, 10:30 am – 12 pm in Central Park Library – Sycamore Room

1. Why do you think Eleanor leads a lonely life? What factors contribute to her unconventional personality? Do you share some of her personality traits?
2. Why does Eleanor want to change her appearance? What do you think of her strategy for doing so?
3. Why do you think Eleanor's co-workers shunned her?
4. Why does Eleanor feel sorry for beautiful people? (See page 25) Do you think there's some truth in her reasoning? Why or why not?
5. Describe Eleanor's relationship with her mother. Why do you think Eleanor keeps in regular contact with her?
6. Eleanor didn't seem interested in Raymond and yet she accepted all of his invitations. Did that surprise you? Why do you think she kept accepting? Why did he keep inviting?
7. Eleanor mentally mocked Raymond for his choices, qualities and clothing, but in what ways was Raymond more adept than she?
8. Little gestures of kindness mean a lot to Eleanor. Why? Do you think most people overlook the importance of thoughtfulness?
9. Eleanor often speaks her mind. Does her forthrightness make you uncomfortable or make you cheer for her?

10. How does Eleanor and Raymond's relationship evolve? Where do you see them in five years?

11. Raymond tells Eleanor that she deserves nice things. Why do you think he feels that way? Do you agree with him?

12. When does Eleanor start to feel hopeful about her life? What signs of positive change did you notice in her day-to-day routine?

13. How did you feel about the ending of the book? Did it change your perspective about Eleanor?

14. What are the different ways the title of the book could be interpreted?