

ESL Book Club 2024 – Discussion Questions for:

I'm Glad My Mom Died by Jennette McCurdy

Discussion Date: Dec 6, 2024, 10:30 am – 12 pm in Central Park Library – Sycamore Room

1. After reading the title of the book, *I'm Glad My Mom Died*, what were some of your guesses about the story of the book?

2. McCurdy has received some pushback on the book's title but has defended her choice as "something that I mean sincerely." What do you think about the title of the book? Why do you think McCurdy chose this title?

3. McCurdy's relationship with her mother is complicated, but you can tell that she does still love her mother. What are your thoughts on her relationship with her mother?

4. There were many red flags of abuse throughout the book, which one stood out the most to you?

5. From the very beginning, Jennette makes it clear that she does not enjoy acting, but she continues to do this as a way to make her mom happy. Do you think several other child stars can relate to this feeling?

6. Have you found yourself in circumstances where your desire to please others came at too high a cost for your own happiness or sanity?

7. McCurdy's friendship with Miranda Cosgrove was an important part of her life. Have you experienced similar friendships that helped sustain you during challenging periods of your life?

8. McCurdy's mother's actions clearly cross the line into abuse, but when it comes to making decisions for children, the line can be blurry. How much control should parents have over their children's lives and activities? Is it always wrong to push our children, especially if they have talent but not necessarily drive?

9. There were many adults in McCurdy's life who did not step in to help her. Do you think that they just didn't clearly see what was happening, or were they purposefully complicit?

10. With what many refer to as “the broken system” of fostering children, do you believe she would have been better off as a foster child vs. being raised by her mother?

11. Do you feel Jennette made a good decision regarding the hush money offered to her?

12. Despite its at times extremely disturbing subject matter, this is also a funny memoir. Discuss the role of humor in the book. Why do you think McCurdy chose to joke about her experiences?

13. Why do you think McCurdy chose to write her memoir?

14. Rate this book on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest.