



29 September - 13 October, 2021

Book club discussion guide

1. Ishiguro leaves out many details around the novel's setting, Josie's condition, and what it means to be 'lifted'. How did this affect your reading of the book?
2. The book is told from the perspective of Klara, a non-human character with human characteristics. Do you think this made her an unreliable narrator?
3. In the book, Paul asks Klara, "Do you believe in the human heart? I don't mean simply the organ, obviously. I mean in the poetic sense ... do you think there is such a thing? Something that makes each of us special and individual?" What do you think the book has to say about what it means to be human?
4. Josie and her mother become dependent on Klara in various ways. What do you think Klara means to these characters, and how do their relationships change throughout the book?
5. How does Klara's fixation with destroying the 'Cootings Machine' as part of her deal with the sun relate to our society's environmental anxieties?
6. Did you like the character of Klara, and did the fact that she is an Artificial Friend change how you connected with her?
7. Do you think Miss Helen is wrong to attempt to bribe Mr Vance? Would you say that Mr Vance's handling of the situation is unfair?
8. Klara is frequently praised for her outstanding observational qualities. How similar or different is she to the human characters in the novel?
9. What genre would you say the book falls under? How does it differ to other books you have read in this genre, or did it challenge your presumptions about the genre?
10. In what ways are the lives of Rick and his mother different to those of Josie and her family, and how does this shape their story?
11. What are the moral implications of Mr Capaldi's project? Do you empathise with Chrissie's choices?
12. What do you think is the purpose of the meetings that Josie's mum and the other parents arrange for their children?