

Klara and the Sun

Kazuo Ishiguro

A tender, quietly luminous story narrated by Klara, an Artificial Friend who observes the human world with hopeful wonder. It is gentle on the surface and deeply moving underneath, perfect for a slow evening of conversation.

Reading level: Easy

Best for: clubs who love character-driven, emotionally resonant stories that reward gentle reflection

Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Klara finds wonder in small, ordinary sights. What is a small thing in your week that quietly delighted you?
2. How did the opening pages make you feel as you settled in with Klara? Cozy, curious, a little wistful?




DIGGING IN

1. Klara's devotion to the Sun feels almost like a private comfort ritual. What small rituals or sources of light bring you comfort?
2. The book is full of soft observations rather than big speeches. Was there a scene that gently lingered with you after you closed the book?
3. Klara's way of seeing the world (in fragments and patterns) felt very particular. Did her perspective change how you noticed your own surroundings while reading?
4. This story sits with loneliness very tenderly. Was there a moment that felt especially comforting, or one that made you want to hug someone you love?




GOING DEEP

1. Without giving anything away, how did the book leave you feeling about hope, even when things are uncertain? Did it offer you any quiet reassurance?
2. Klara loves in a very steady, attentive way. Has someone in your life loved you like that, or have you loved someone like that, and how did the book stir those memories?

On the table

-  **Creamy tomato soup with grilled cheese soldiers**
Sunlit orange in a bowl, warm and nurturing, a nod to Klara's beloved Sun
-  **Honey-drizzled buttered scones**
Soft, homey, and golden, perfect for slow conversation and second helpings
-  **Roast chicken and root vegetable pot pie**
A quiet, family-table comfort that mirrors the book's tender domestic warmth

To sip

-  **Honey chamomile tea with lemon (no alcohol)**
Gentle, soothing, and golden in the cup, a cozy stand-in for sunlight
-  **Warm spiced apple cider (no alcohol)**
Hearth-warm and familiar, easy to cradle in both hands
-  **Mulled white wine with pear and cardamom**
Soft, pale, and lightly sweet, a quiet evening sipper

Run of show

- 7:00** **Soft landing**
Greet guests with tea or cider, low lamps, blankets out, playlist humming
- 7:15** **Settle and snack**
Soup and scones at the table, easy chatter, no agenda yet
- 7:35** **Warm-ups**
Start with the two warm-up questions to ease into the book together
- 7:55** **Heart of the book**
Move through the theme questions, letting silences breathe
- 8:35** **Deeper sip**
Refill mugs, slow into the two deep questions, keep it gentle
- 9:10** **Scorecards and goodbyes**
Fill in scorecards together, share one-word reactions, send guests home with a bookmark

HOST TIPS

- Keep lighting low and layered (lamps, candles) so the room feels like a held breath
- Let pauses sit. This book rewards quiet, and so does cozy conversation
- Have extra blankets and to-go cups ready. The vibe is 'stay as long as you like'

Playlist

Hushed, hopeful, sunlit-through-curtains acoustic and ambient

- 01 Saman - Ólafur Arnalds
- 02 Re: Stacks - Bon Iver
- 03 The Sun - Portico Quartet
- 04 Holocene - Bon Iver
- 05 Avril 14th - Aphex Twin
- 06 Sunrise - Norah Jones
- 07 Nuvole Bianche - Ludovico Einaudi
- 08 Northern Lights - Sleeping At Last

Trivia

1. Who wrote Klara and the Sun? (Kazuo Ishiguro)
2. In what year was the novel first published? (2021)
3. What does the abbreviation 'AF' stand for in the book's world? (Artificial Friend)
4. Which major literary prize did Ishiguro win in 2017? (The Nobel Prize in Literature)
5. Klara and the Sun was Ishiguro's first novel after winning which honor? (The Nobel Prize in Literature)
6. Name another Ishiguro novel that, like this one, explores memory and humanity. (Never Let Me Go (or The Remains of the Day))
7. In what country was Kazuo Ishiguro born? (Japan (Nagasaki))
8. Klara and the Sun is narrated in what point of view? (First person, from Klara's perspective)

Rate the book

Coziness ☆☆☆☆☆

Tenderness ☆☆☆☆☆

Lingered with me ☆☆☆☆☆

Made me feel seen ☆☆☆☆☆

Want to reread ☆☆☆☆☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

A scene I want to wrap a blanket around: _____

Someone I want to lend my copy to: _____

YOU'RE INVITED

An evening with Klara, by lamplight

Come curl up for a slow, warm night of soup, soft drinks, and gentle talk about Kazuo Ishiguro's tender Klara and the Sun. Wear something soft.



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