



Junior Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Lottery's Plus One by Emma Donoghue

1. Discuss the unique characteristics of the Lottery family. Is there any family member that you identify most with?
2. What is your initial perception of the Lottery family? How does the author contrast the family's tolerance and open mindedness with their struggle to accept Grumps' viewpoint?
3. From whose point of view is the novel told? Do you connect with the story more because of the narrator? Are you able to place yourself in the story? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think Sumac's slideshow upsets Grumps? Do you think Grumps is just a grumpy old man, or do you think there is something else going on with him?
5. When Sumac researches Grumps' behavior, why does she theorize that he has been acting confused?
6. Why does Aspen stop participating in Sumac's plan to convince Grumps to move into an assisted living facility?
7. How did the Lottery's win the lottery? What would you do if you won the lottery?
8. What do you think this quote means: "It's all a matter of what you're used to, Sumac supposes. Like, Isabella's Columbian, so she loves that disgusting cake they soak in evaporated ilk, condensed milk, and cream." How can this observation be extended to all aspects of Sumac's life?
9. If someone you cared about was having a difficult time, how would you try to help them?

The above questions were created by Clarington Library, Museums & Archives staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Emma Donoghue is an Irish-Canadian author who has been writing professionally from the age of 23. Her 2010 novel, *Room*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prize, and won the Commonwealth Prize (Canada & Caribbean Regio). *Room* was adapted for both screen and stage, and the screenplay was shortlisted for an Academy Award Golden Globe, and Bafta for Best Adapted Screenplay. Donoghue settled in London, Ontario in 1998, and lives with her partner and two children.

<https://emmadonoghue.com/emma-donoghue.html>

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