

Book Girl Discussion Questions

1. In the introduction, the author describes how she came to be a book girl. When did you realize you were a book girl? What people or circumstances contributed to your love of reading?
2. In the introduction, the author identifies what she sees as the top three gifts of reading: it fills our hearts with beauty, gives us strength for the battle, and reminds us that we're not alone. What gifts have you encountered from the reading life?
3. In chapter 1, the author offers some guidelines about how to choose books and how to discern what constitutes good reading. How do you choose what book to read next? Are there people in your life whose recommendations you particularly resonate with?
4. Have you ever found yourself in a reading slump? How did you get out of it? Are there certain books or types of books that help you when you've gotten out of the rhythm of reading?
5. In chapter 2, the author gives suggestions for reading in fellowship. Do any of these recommendations resonate with you? Are there any that you'd like to begin to implement?
6. In chapter 3, the author says, "We understand our worlds through the words we are given." Can you think of a time when a passage from a book gave you empathy for or a deeper understanding of a person or situation in your life?
7. The author gives her "Beloved Dozen" list in chapter 3. What titles would you include on your must-read list?
8. In chapter 4 the author says, "A great book meets you in the narrative motion of your own life, showing you in vividly imagined ways exactly what it looks like to be evil or good, brave or cowardly, each of those choices shaping the happy (or tragic) ending of the stories in which they're made." In what ways have books shaped the story of your life?
9. In chapter 5, the author describes the role literature played in making her faith her own: "Tolkien's story helped me to recognize Scripture as my story, the one in whose decisive battles I was caught, the narrative that drew me into the conflict, requiring me to decide what part I would play: heroine, coward, lover, or villain." What impact have books had on your faith and your discovery of self? Are there particular books or passages that have been especially meaningful to you on your spiritual journey?
10. In chapter 7, the author describes how books gave her mutual ground on which to connect with her siblings. Have you ever had a similar experience of appreciating someone or identifying with them as a result of a shared reading experience?
11. What mentors fostered a love of reading for you? Who are you passing along the gift of reading to?

12. What books on the author's books lists do you love too? What additional titles would you include? What books have you added to your to-read list after finishing this book?