

book club questions

THE MEASURE

Discuss the meaning of the epigraph by Mary Oliver: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

What does "The measure of your life lies within" mean?

Would you look in your string box?

How do you think you would react to looking in your string box?

Compare and contrast the ways the characters reacted to the length of their strings.

Would you ask others about their strings as the characters in the book did?

Why do you think 22 was the age at which the strings were first delivered?

Did any of the real-life events the strings affected surprise you?

Did you like or dislike the magical realism element of this book?

Is The Measure a dystopian novel?

Do you think the media's reaction to the strings was realistically portrayed?

Discuss the significance of books, letters, and other art, which were prominently featured throughout the narrative.

Ben said it was "better to believe in miracles." Do you agree?

Would you consider pretending your string was different like one of the main characters did?

Discuss the consequences of string-switching.

What role did secrets play in the narrative?

Would you ever secretly look in someone else's box?

What were the consequences of the string database?

Compare and contrast the strings to real events that cause people to think about life, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Discuss how the strings brought certain people together and pulled certain people apart.

Discuss the theme of fate versus free will.

How did the strings affect faith and spirituality?

How did the strings affect the field of medicine?

The historical timing of the strings was discussed in the book. How may their occurrence in the present have differed from any other given time in the past?

Would masks, like the ones discussed in Venice, be freeing?

Discuss the meaning of the New Year in the book.

How did public perception of the strings change over time?

What are the pros and cons of being a short stringer versus a long stringer?

What are your thoughts on the ending for each of the characters?

What do you take away about life from this book?