

Eleanor Oliphant Book Club Questions

1. Why do you think Eleanor leads a lonely life? What factors contribute to her unconventional personality?
2. What are some things that Eleanor has to learn that most of us take for granted? Why does she want to change her appearance?
3. Why does Eleanor feel sorry for beautiful people? Do you think there's some truth in her reasoning? Why or why not?
4. Describe Eleanor's relationship with her mother. Why do you think Eleanor keeps in regular contact with her?
5. Eleanor is frightened that she may become like her mother. Is this a reasonable fear? What is the balance of nature and nurture?
6. Little gestures of kindness mean a lot to Eleanor. Why? Do you think most people overlook the importance of thoughtfulness?
6. Eleanor often speaks her mind and is very opinionated. Does her forthrightness make you uncomfortable or make you cheer for her?
7. How does Eleanor and Raymond's relationship evolve?
 - Were you hoping Eleanor and Raymond would end up dating? Why or why not?

- Where do you see them in five years? Do you think they might get together?

8. Raymond tells Eleanor that she deserves nice things. Why do you think he feels that way? Do you agree with him?

9. When does Eleanor start to feel hopeful about her life? What signs of positive change did you notice in her day-to-day routine?

10. Eleanor says, "If someone asks you how you are, you are meant to say FINE. You are not meant to say that you cried yourself to sleep last night because you hadn't spoken to another person for two consecutive days. FINE is what you say". Why is this the case? When did you start to suspect that Eleanor Oliphant was not, in fact, completely fine?

11. How did you feel about the ending of the book? Did it change your perspective about Eleanor?

12. Did you find the book ultimately sad or optimistic? Or both?