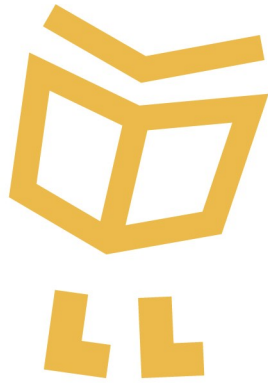


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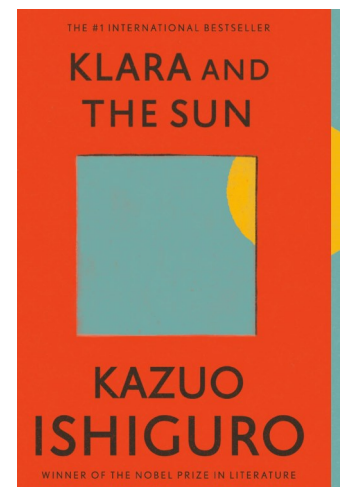


Klara and the Sun

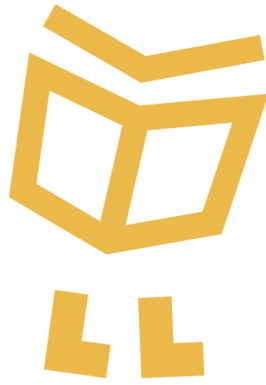
Kazuo Ishiguro

Discussion Questions

1. The novel takes place some time in the future when parents choose artificial friends for their children and interaction with other children is limited and scheduled. Why do you think that the parents preferred artificial friends over human children? What similar trends do you see in today's world?
2. Why did Ishiguro choose to tell the story from Klara's perspective? How would the novel have been different if Josie, or her mother, had told it?
3. While the details are never disclosed, the novel hints that the parents made choices for Josie and Rick which would affect their success, but would come at a cost (possibly the life of the child). Why do you think that Josie's parents took the risk, but Rick's didn't? What similar trade-offs do you see in today's culture?
4. Let's talk about Klara's connection to the sun. What do you think is the meaning behind this?
5. Discuss the Cootings Machine and its role in the novel. What do you think it represented? Klara tries to destroy it, at a detrimental cost to herself, but the damage continues. How did this speak to you?
6. Do you think Klara had feelings? Or do you think that we, as readers, imposed feelings on her throughout the story based on her actions? In that sense, discuss the fine line between action and feeling.
7. In the novel, workers have been "substituted" by machines who do their labor. At various points in the book, we hear from characters who support substitution, like Josie's father, and some who oppose it, like the woman at the theater. Why are their opinions different? Who benefits from substitution? What has changed about each of the characters by the end of the book? Have they grown? Have their circumstances improved? Did you find it hopeful? Or tragic?
8. "There was something very special, but it wasn't inside Josie. It was inside those who loved her." Does technology change the way that we relate to one another? Does it enhance or limit our capacity for love?
9. What has the book taught you? About people, technology, or love? What will you take away from it the most?



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About the Author

Kazuo Ishiguro was born in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1954 and moved to Britain at the age of five. His eight previous works of fiction have earned him many honors around the world, including the Nobel Prize in Literature and the Booker Prize. His work has been translated into over fifty languages, and *The Remains of the Day* and *Never Let Me Go*, both made into acclaimed films, have each sold more than 2 million copies. He was given a knighthood in 2018 for Services to Literature. He also holds the decorations of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from France and the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star from Japan.

Via Penguin Random House (<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/14137/kazuo-ishiguro/>)

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