



NANCY: A well-written novel about bookstores and the love of books, with delightful love stories as well. The author weaves an intriguing tale around a little bookstore in a tourist destination, wrapped with tragedy and resilient love. The characters are quirky and interesting. A booklovers book.



KATHARINE: Okay. Artfully written with mystery and love. Perhaps a good one for English majors to answer the question—Why did the author chose Edgar Allen Poe, and the other literary references? What do you think?



JANE: I loved the creative entrepreneurship demonstrated when they turned the bookstore around and made it a success in the little town. I especially enjoyed the police chief getting into the book club. My kind of guy.



PRISCILLA: Once again, I didn't see Jesus discussed in the story or an acknowledgement of God, or did I miss it?. Did they even believe in God? What's the world coming to these days?



MOLLY: I found it very weird that Maya's mother was African-American, but they barely mentioned that. Don't you think the author underplayed that? Maybe because AJ had Indian heritage and dark skin, the author thought it was a mute point, but I would have liked a little more discussion of that.



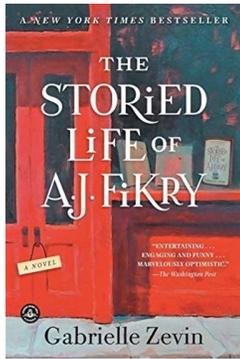
ABIGAIL: This made me feel melancholy and sad that there just aren't many books stores any more. In college, Sallie and I loved to go to the bookstores. We could spend an afternoon looking for books. Now we don't even have a single bookstore in River City.



SALLIE: What a wonderful father AJ becomes for Maya. I loved this story. Some of the very cool things were: the love AJ had for Maya, Maya's love for books, like her father (and mother) and the nontraditional childrearing that seemed to work so well.



Discussion Guide



About the Book

Title: The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry

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Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. This book begins as AJ Fikry is deep in the throes of grief. How did grief express itself in his life? Have you experienced grief in this way or known others who did? Explain.
3. What did the expensive Poe Book represent for AJ? How did its presence and subsequent loss affect him? Have you had any cash cows in your life and if so, how has that affected you? How was this situation ultimately resolved in the book and what did you think of the storyline?
4. Maya arrived in the bookstore shortly after the theft. How did this change AJ's life? Do you think that in the long run, the child was better than the book for AJ? Why or why not?
5. What were the love stories in this book? How did they play out and what did you like/dislike about them?
6. How did the author weave literature into the story. Were you familiar with the literary works, and if so what did they add to the story?
7. Bookstores like the one in this novel are becoming obsolete. How do you feel about that? AJ Fikry hated electronic book readers, until he needed one. What's your preference — hard copy or electronic or audio and why?
8. Read over the MAMs comments on this book. With whom do you agree/disagree and why?
9. Will this book change your life or perspective in any way? Explain.

The Author on YouTube

"Kirkus TV Interview with Bestselling Author Gabrielle Zevin" (2:10—Gabrielle talking about the book)

"Gabrielle Zevin - The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" (29:28—Author Interview on the book)

"Gabrielle Zevin's Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow Is a Tough Book to Describe | Tonight Show" (6:53 -Interview on the Tonight Show with Jimmie Fallon)