

Such a Fun Age – Discussion Questions

by Kiley Reid

1. SUCH A FUN AGE is told from the perspectives of two highly different women: Emira and Alix. How did the narration impact your reading experience? Did you relate more to one woman than the other? Did that change as you read the novel?

2. After Kelley takes the video of Emira in the grocery store, she asks him not to release it. Did you understand her request? What would you have done if you were in her position?

3. The question of parental vs. parental-figure relationships is pivotal in this story. How does Briar's relationship with Emira differ from that with her mother? How do Emira and Alix each relate to Briar in turn?

4. While the "age" in the title recalls childhood, the novel is very much about Emira's pivotal age and her experience as a 25-year-old learning how to be a grown-up. Talk about some of Emira's challenges, as well as her freedoms. How does her experience compare or differ to your own?

5. An unexpected person links Emira and Alix. What was your reaction when you realized the connection? How did it make you view Alix differently? Emira?

6. Kelley is the first to point out the racist accusations against Emira, but at times, he seems to forget they have very different experiences, whereas Emira is always aware of it. Talk about the moments where they don't seem to communicate well about their specific perspectives.

7. Kelley and Alix have a fraught history. Do you think Alix is right to blame Kelley for many of her issues growing up? Do you think Kelley's perception of Alix as spoiled and privileged is fair?

8. Alix devotes herself to befriending Emira, but Emira only sees Alix as her employer. At the end of the day, did you find their relationship to be anything more than transactional? In what ways do each of the women try to either maintain or disrupt that boundary?



9. Toward the end of the novel, Alix is confronted with the possibility that she had not acted in Emira's best interests. Do you think Alix meant well by getting involved in Emira's situation? Do her intentions ultimately matter?

10. The last chapter follows Emira in the years after the incident at the Chamberlains'. In what way did things change, if at all? Did anything you learned about Kelley, Alix or Briar surprise you?

11. There are many uncomfortable, but relatable, moments in SUCH A FUN AGE. In what ways did you see your own experiences reflected in this story? How did you feel seeing them explored through the characters?