

FOLGER BOOK CLUB



Discussion Questions: *Year of Wonders*

Folger Book Club—September 2024

1. What did you think of this novel? If asked, what would you say this book is about?
2. What is it like to read this book in a post-Covid world? Are there reactions you have today that would have been different when the book first came out?
3. Which characters were you drawn to? Which acted in a way that most closely aligns with how you think you would respond in a similar situation?
4. Rector Mompellion predicts the plague will “make heroes of us all,” while the sexton later asks forgiveness as he feels “it has made monsters of us all.” Where do you see examples of each? On balance, which do you feel is more true? What conditions tip us towards one or the other?
5. Is Anna a reliable narrator? Consider the instances where she assures us/herself that she would have acted in a different way with additional knowledge.
6. This book in part explores people’s distrust of knowledge and difference in the relationship between the Gowries and the town. How do these tensions still persist today?
7. How do the characters separate their understanding of God’s will from personal agency?
8. How does Brooks create suspense within the story despite the seeming inevitability of death within the village?
9. Were you inspired to learn more about the historical events that inspired this novel?
10. Do you agree with Mompellion’s push for quarantine? Did your understanding of his motives change upon learning more about him?