

FOLGER BOOK CLUB



Discussion Questions: *Edith Holler*

Folger Book Club—October 2024

1. What did you think of this novel? If asked, what would you say this book is about?
2. Do you believe the supernatural elements of this novel are the result of the narrator's imaginings, or are they real within the world of the story?
3. Is Edith a reliable narrator? Did you find her sympathetic? With so many characters, were there others you wish we had spent more time with?
4. There is much personification of buildings and architecture within the book. What does this say about Edith's relationship to her physical world? Why are buildings given such character?
5. In addition to scenery, what other theatrical elements are employed within the plot?
6. Are we meant to believe the curse is real? Did you?
7. Edith processes much of what is happening to her through theatrical metaphors, including Shakespeare's characters and plot points. Why are stories so useful in understanding the world around us? What literary touch points do you use in your own life?
8. On page 156, Edgar laments, "Norwich has no theater now, and thus shall never understand itself, not ever again!" What role does art play in civic understanding? Why is it so important that Edith's play is set in Norwich, and what does it say about the importance of representation?
9. The print edition of this novel contains original illustrations mimicking the toy theaters Edith plays with, and versions of the illustrations can be downloaded from Edward Carey's website (<https://edwardcareyauthor.com/books/edith-holler/>). What do these illustrations add to the story? Did you engage with them separately?
10. What do you think happens to Edith next?