

FOLGER BOOK CLUB



Discussion Questions: *Emily Wilde's Encyclopaedia of Faeries*

Folger Book Club—December 2025

1. What did you think of this novel? If asked, what would you say this book is about?
2. Are you familiar with Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*? If so, what similarities do you see in the actions and hierarchies of the fairies in his play and Fawcett's book? What differences?
3. Based on what you see in the novel, do you think Shakespeare's plays exist in this world? How does this existence of fairies change the role of works around them?
4. What different types of hospitality do you see displayed within the novel? What responsibilities are placed on hosts versus guests?
5. In the age of the internet, are encyclopedias still useful? What are the benefits of arranging information in this way?
6. Fawcett combines the imaginative fantasy genre with the research-based world of academia. What is the effect of putting these two ways of thinking in conversation with each other?
7. Emily takes much care to learn and practice the right customs when interacting with the folk, yet is unable to apply that same practice to her interactions with the people of Hrafnsvik. Why do you think that is?
8. Emily's suspicions that Wendell Bumbleby is one of the courtly folk precede the narrative. Were you surprised this was not treated as a twist? What did you think of this approach?
9. What role do stories play in Emily's experience throughout the book? How is the story structure replicated in the plot?
10. While *Encyclopaedia of Faeries* has a standalone plot, it is also the first part of a series. What do you expect will happen in the following books? Do you think you will read them?