



Discussion Questions: *Fair Rosaline*

Folger Book Club—September 2026

1. What did you think of this novel? If asked, what would you say this book is about?
2. Were you familiar with *Romeo and Juliet* before reading this book? If so, what surprised you about this retelling? If not, do you feel this stands up as a story in its own right?
3. Why do you think Emilia arranged for Rosaline to go to the convent? Do you think she will eventually be happy there? Did your reaction to this decision change over the course of the book?
4. Are there examples of true love in this story? Where do you find them? How do you recognize them?
5. Do you think Romeo believes in his own love in the moment?
6. This book contains many references to other Shakespeare plays. How many were you able to spot? Did you enjoy them, or did you find they took you out of the story?
7. Knowing that Juliet is 13 in Shakespeare's play, did this novel change the way you think about her as a heroine?
8. What do you think of the adults in this book? How do their behaviors impact their children's decisions?
9. In the author's note, Solomons asserts that "Shakespeare wants us to be uneasy about this relationship [between Romeo and Juliet]." Do you agree? Why or why not? Why are we so inclined to assign him contemporary values and/or perspectives?
10. Are there other Shakespeare stories or characters you would like to see similarly treated?