

Sing You Home by Jodi Picoult

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m.

1. Why does Picoult use a quotation from Thomas Jefferson for the book's epigraph? How can his message be interpreted in the context of the novel's events?
2. Every life has a soundtrack. Name a song that brings back a memory of a time or place. Does it matter how much time has passed?
3. The author skillfully presents the struggle couples with fertility issues have with IVF. Have you had any experience with this? Any insights to share?
4. "There was no room in my marriage for me anymore, except as genetic material." (p. 51) Why does Max give up on his relationship with Zoe? Is he weak, or callous – or in any way justified? How has his experience of infertility and IVF affected him? How do Max and Zoe differ in their handling of disappointment and grief? Do you think they would have stayed together if they hadn't lost their baby?
5. Pastor Clive seems to embody the very essence of fundamentalist religion. How does he make you feel?
6. "This may be news to you, Reid...but God doesn't vote Republican." (p. 75) What does Zoe mean by this? How does religion relate to the public worlds of politics, education, and the legal system in SING YOU HOME? To what extent is there – and should there be – a separation of church and state?
7. So much of a friendship is like a love affair". (p. 129) Agree? Disagree?
8. A statement of religion: "I don't begrudge people the right to believe in whatever they believe, but I don't like having those same beliefs forced on me." (p.129) Discuss.
9. How does Zoe's first session with Lucy end? Do you think you could deal with Lucy?

10. Zoe and Vanessa have different experiences when they come out to their mothers. Discuss. How do you think you'd react?

11. Max takes Pauline with him to talk to Zoe. The author really gets to the crux of the issue when Vanessa speaks up. (p. 198) What is your opinion of Pauline's beliefs about homosexuality? Discuss.

12. In your opinion, who most deserves the embryos: Max or Zoe? Why?

13. "...it's not gender that makes a family; it's love. You don't need a mother and a father; you don't necessarily even need two parents. You just need someone who's got your back". (p. 319) Discuss.

14. When Reid is on the stand, what does Zoe find out about how Max met the cost of the last session of IVF? Why is this important?

15. What happens between Max and Liddy? Are you surprised?

16. "Atheism, I realize, is the new gay. The thing you hope no one finds out about you-because of all the negative assumptions that are sure to follow." (p. 414) Agree? Disagree? Discuss.

17. The decision of who gets the embryos is made. (p. 461) Did Max do the right thing?

18. What do you believe constitutes a family, a good parent?