



Book Club Questions

My Other Heart by Emma Nanami Strenner

1. In the opening scene of *My Other Heart*, Mimi is in the airport, in transit. How does this image—of waiting, of being between two places, of liminal space—show up throughout the novel?
2. The journey of motherhood is depicted through multiple characters in the novel. Some mothers are not biologically connected to their daughters, others are physically separated, still others are not technically parents at all but fill a meaningful maternal role. Consider Mimi, Sally, Lee Lee, Eva, Yuriko. How do you see each of them acting as mothers? In what ways do they influence the younger characters?
3. What do you think prompted Sabrina, normally a quiet student, to deliver such a powerful and personal monologue in drama class?
4. Kit and Sabrina both plan for the summer before college to be filled with adventure and self-actualization. Their summers don't turn out the way they expected, but each girl does indeed experience challenge and growth. Did you have a similarly formative summer when you were an adolescent?
5. Dave and Sabrina's relationship changes throughout the novel. How does their individual growth allow their friendship to grow?
6. Discuss the title *My Other Heart*. Why do you think Emma Nanami Strenner chose this title? How do the main characters connect to this idea of another part of themselves—a part that can feel both close and far away?
7. How do you think Amy's friendship influenced Kit? In what ways was Amy a different type of friend than Sabrina was?
8. Though this novel is set in multiple countries, Chestnut Hill and Philadelphia are the only places that every character has in common. How has the city affected each of the characters—from Kit and Sabrina to Yuriko to Eva, and so on?
9. Were you surprised that Kit and Ryo's relationship didn't last into their first year of college? Kit gives Sabrina a long-winded explanation as to why they broke up—distance, personality differences, and identity. How did you interpret Kit's explanation? What do you think the most important factors in their breakup likely were?
10. Belonging is at the heart of this story. Do you think Kit and Sabrina found a sense of belonging by the end of the story? And how do their journeys differ?
11. What part of the story was the most emotionally moving for you? Did the end surprise you?

Book Club Questions by the publisher