Lessons in Chemistry: participant questions

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Whole-book spoilers. Optional prompts for adult discussion. Pass on any item without explaining why.

Book: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Reference ISBN 9780593314487. Your edition / chapter notes: _____

Before full-book spoilers

Which early exchange made the rules around Elizabeth's work most apparent? | What did the title lead you to expect about the relationship between a lesson and a life?

Q01. How does Elizabeth distinguish an evidence-based claim from a rule that merely has authority behind it? Where is that distinction hardest to sustain?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q02. Which piece of work receives less credit than it deserves? Follow how the contribution becomes visible or remains hidden.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q03. What does the novel make comic about a supposedly normal expectation? Does the humor expose the expectation's cost or risk minimizing it?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q04. How does Elizabeth alter an explanation for a different audience without surrendering its substance? Bring a concrete example of the change.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q05. Where do family life and professional work compete for a label such as serious or skilled? Who gets to apply that label?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q06. Which supporting relationship lets Elizabeth act without simply endorsing every decision she makes? What makes that support credible?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q07. How do shifts in narrative perspective change the scale of a household event? Consider what a conventional single viewpoint would miss.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q08. What does the cooking-show setting allow the novel to say about public speech? How does care fit into the task of explaining an idea?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q09. Where does a character mistake confidence for competence, or doubt for lack of ability? What evidence overturns the mistake?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q10. How does the ending distribute recognition among individuals and the people who made their work possible? Is anything still left out?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q11. Which apparent solution remains dependent on a social rule the novel has challenged? Discuss the tension rather than declaring it resolved.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q12. What does the final view of Elizabeth ask you to revise about the first? Use an early and a late passage instead of a general character arc.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

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