



Empress of All Seasons

Emiko Jean

August Book of the Month

Tome Society It List Discussion
Guide



Pre-reading questions

1. One of the themes of this book is fulfilling a duty to family. Have you read any other books that have a similar theme? How do you think this duty affects the way characters make decisions?
2. What do you like about the cover? Does it match the description of the book? If you could change the cover, how would you redesign it?
3. This book uses myths and creatures from the Japanese culture. Have you read any other books with a similar setting? What genre or setting is your favorite to read?

Post-reading questions

1. Do you think Taro's fate was necessary? How would you have changed it?
2. Who were your favorite and least favorite characters? Why?
3. What flaws did you recognize in Taro, Akira, and Mari? How did they change as the book progressed? Did they overcome their flaws or did the flaws help them in some way?
4. In the story, Taro discovers that Mari is yōkai. Did you think his reaction was appropriate? If you were the author, how might you have changed how he was impacted by this discovery?
5. How did your assumption of who the villain was change throughout the book? Did you ever think one of the three narrators was the villain?
6. If you could change something about one of the characters, what would you change and why?
7. Who is a role model for Mari? Do you think they were a good or bad choice?

Post-reading activities

1. Create a video book trailer depicting the world of Empress of All Seasons. Follow the guidelines at tomesociety.org/competitions to enter it into the Tome book trailer competition.
2. Create a promotional book flyer to attract readers to this novel. Follow the competition guidelines to enter it into the Tome competition.
3. Write a poem from the point of view of Mari, Taro, or Akira. Follow the competition guidelines to enter it into the Tome poetry competition.

More about this book

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