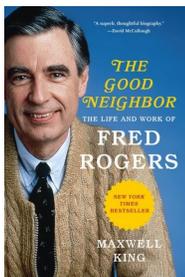


# Books by the Stack



## **The Good Neighbor by Maxwell King**

Drawing on original interviews, oral histories and archival documents, the author traces the iconic children's program host's personal, professional, and artistic life through decades of work.

**Why you'll like it:** *Heartwarming. Inspirational. Well-researched.*

**About the Author:** Maxwell King is an American journalist and editor, born in Alliance, Ohio. He is the former editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer. After leaving the Philadelphia Inquirer, he became the president of The Heintz Endowments. Currently, he is the CEO and President of The Pittsburgh Foundation. He is the author of *The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers*.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What is your first memory of Mister Rogers? Did you watch Mister Rogers' Neighborhood growing up? Why do you think you still remember that from your childhood?
2. Many viewers of Mister Rogers regarded him as the epitome of middle-class bourgeois habits. Were you surprised to learn that Rogers grew up rich in a mansion with a cook and a chauffeur?
3. Author King maintains that the bullying and loneliness Rogers ("Fat Freddy") experienced underpinned his sensitivity to kids' feelings and his own self-doubt (he consulted a psychiatrist for most of his adult life). Why does this bullying (which admittedly did not seem pervasive) seem to be an asset to Rogers where for most it seems to be a debilitating factor?
4. Some criticize the book for being "boring" and repetitive with many tangents that don't necessarily concern Rogers or his legacy. What did you think of the author's writing style?
5. Rogers' show discussed themes as divorce, death or a loved one or pet, childhood disability, and interracial relationships at a time when these topics were not discussed on television in any capacity. In that and many other ways his show was innovative and ahead of its time. What about Rogers gave him this unique insight? Why has his show and image endured?
6. In reading the book, it may have occurred to some how different Mister Rogers is from others in leadership roles. Everyone seems to love him but then vote for and support very different people. Why does the public turn away from values that everyone seems to otherwise revere? Was Mister Rogers dramatizing a world that was already, at that moment, slipping away?

*(Questions provided by Las Vegas Nonfiction Book Club)*

