We Are Never Meeting in Real Life: Essays by Samantha Irby

Sometimes you just have to laugh, even when life is a dumpster fire. With We Are Never Meeting in Real Life, blogger and comedian Samantha Irby turns the serio-comic essay into an art form.


About the Author: Samantha Irby writes a blog called "bitches gotta eat." (Bowker Author Biography)

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the significance of the title? Would you have given the book a different title? If yes, what is your title?

2. Does Irby have a theme to which she returns over and over?

3. Do all of the essays feel as though they are of equal “weight?” If not, what makes one essay feel more significant than another?

4. Why do you think Irby chose the first essay to be the first and the last essay to be last?

5. Titles can tell you what to pay attention to; titles can set the tone of a story; titles can be mysterious until after you have finished the story, when their meaning becomes clear. What is the author trying to do with her titles? Does the author have a “title style?”

6. Do any of Irby’s essays use irony of situation? Dramatic irony? Verbal irony? What function(s) do the ironies serve?

7. What are the characteristics of the author’s style? Are they appropriate to the nature of the story?

8. What was your favorite essay and why? What was your least favorite and why?

9. Did any part of the book elicit a strong emotional reaction? Why or why not?

10. If you didn’t like the book, how do you think it could be improved?

11. Are there any books that you would compare this one to? How does this book hold up to them?