



Discussion Questions

Go Gentle
Maria Semple

1. When Adora hits her lowest point, Stoicism feels obvious and reasonable. How much did you read her philosophical turn as a genuine intellectual awakening or as a trauma response? What hole in her life does Stoicism seem to fill?
2. Between Adora's lectures, books and billionaire clients, she is practically the face of Stoicism. How does being a public philosopher shape what she can admit to herself privately?
3. Adora insists that externals cannot be the basis of a good and truly content life. Then Digby walks in. How does their relationship challenge her beliefs?
4. Parenting Viv short-circuits Adora's usual Stoic strategies. Why do those tools seem to work so poorly here?
5. Why do we, as readers, find female chaos compelling? Where did you laugh with Adora versus at her?
6. How does the novel complicate a simple view of wealth and influence through characters like Layla?
7. What does the book suggest about who gets to decide what something is worth?
8. How does humor shape your experience of the novel's darker moments?
9. How does the idea of curating your life into a story appear throughout the book?
10. What does the novel suggest about class and labor through its background characters?
11. What moments of genuine joy stood out most to you?

Discussion Questions by Publisher
PrincetonBookReview.com