



Discussion Questions

Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris

Source: Madison Public Library

1. Sedaris has certainly had some odd jobs. Was there one description that was especially hilarious to you?
2. Fake battered woman bruises, drug adled performance art, poop—it's all here. Were there any essays that were just too much for you? Do the members of your group disagree on what (if anything) was over-the-top?
3. In one chapter Sedaris details the way our beloved holidays are celebrated... quite differently... elsewhere. Were you aware of any of these variations on our American traditions? Do see our holidays in a different light now that you've read this?
4. In her review for the New York Times, Michiko Kakutani calls Sedaris “ a self-dramatizing narcissist, by turns egomaniac and self-deprecating, needy and judgemental.” Are these dichotomies what makes his work so funny to so many?
5. What do you think of the Sedaris family as a whole? Are the stories about his family the result of situations that could have happened to any family, or from extraordinary events particular to his own?
6. Not every member of the Sedaris family is included in David's books-- by their individual choice. If David were your son or brother, would you let him include you in his work?
7. How would you describe Sedaris's style of writing? Would you call this a collection of essays, short stories, memoirs or something altogether different?

8. Have you been to France? Did you have anxieties about speaking French with the native speakers? What did you do? Did you have any particularly embarrassing gaffes?

9. Were you aware that the rights to a film version of four of the stories in *Me Talk Pretty One Day* had been sold to Columbia Pictures and had a completed script when David asked director Wayne Wang to quit [See the rest of the discussion guide for more information]? What would you have envisioned for a film version? Which actor would make a good David? Hugh?