



Discussion Questions

Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim by David Sedaris

Source: Madison Public Library

1. Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim is David Sedaris' newest collection of essays. How would you describe his style of writing? Would you call this a collection of essays, short stories, memoirs, or something altogether different?
2. Each essay or story takes place in a different time and setting, but none of the stories are very long. How does Sedaris cue the reader to the time and setting within the short span of the piece?
3. What do you think of the Sedaris family as a whole? Are the humorous stories about his family the result of situations that could have happened to any family, or from extraordinary events particular to his own?
4. Not every member of the Sedaris family is included in his books – by their individual choice. If David were your son or brother, would you let him include you in his work?
5. Many of the pieces in this book were originally broadcast on radio shows such as This American Life or printed in The New Yorker. Are there particular essays that you feel would be best read aloud? Have you heard Sedaris read any of his work?
6. Knowing that these stories were originally published separately in other formats, how do the pieces fit together as a whole? Is there a basic theme that ties all of these essays together?
7. Unlike the titles of Sedaris' other collected works, the title Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim does not relate to a specific selection in the book. Why do you think Sedaris chose this title for the book?