

KOKO BE GOOD DISCUSSION GUIDE

Book Description

Koko Be Good is a graphic novel written and illustrated by Jen Wang. It tells the story of two people – Jon and Koko – whose meeting sparks in both of them a desire to understand what it really means to be a good person.



For Discussion

A main theme in *Koko Be Good* is the question of what it means to be a good person. What do you think makes someone a good person? Do actions and intentions matter equally?

What do you think about Koko's strategies for becoming good? Why don't any of them work for her?

At the beginning of the book, Koko seems to have sacrificed all sorts of positive social attributes (responsibility, concern for others' feelings, etc.) for a pure expression of self. To what extent does she maintain or reflect this at the end of the book?

What do you think of The Ballad of Faron Lau (pg. 155)? How does it change your opinion of Faron's character? Does the different format of this section make sense for Faron's character? Why or why not?

"I'm going to live for the world!" says Koko. Do you think she does a good job of living for the world? What does 'living for the world' mean?

What do you think about Jon and Emily's relationship? Do you think their decision to separate was the right one for both of them?

Koko Be Good was painted in a limited palette of watercolors. How does the way the art of this story looks affect the way you think about the characters and the setting?

Jon, Koko, and Faron are all searching for some direction for their lives. Do you think that search for the best path through life is common to all people in their twenties in the United States? How is the situation for twenty-somethings different than say, fifty or a hundred years ago?