

“Being Someone” is an emotive tale of love, of self-discovery and adventure – a story of the eternal search for happiness in another, without ultimately losing ourselves – and follows James and Lainey through their journey together. It’s the ideal title for your book club and with this in mind we’ve put together a selection of questions to get you started when you discuss it. Enjoy!!

1. How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to "get into it"? How did you feel reading it—amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored...?
2. Does James seem a likeable character? What motivates him in his big decisions? What do his friendships tell us about him? What role does Richard play in the story?
3. Do the main characters change by the end of the book? What do you think they have learned about themselves and the world?
4. What connection do you see between the story of the elephant and that of James and Lainey?
5. Is the plot engaging—does the story interest you? Is this a plot-driven book: a fast-paced page-turner? Or does the story unfold slowly with a focus on character development? Were you surprised by the plot's complications? Or did you find it predictable, even formulaic?
6. Why do you think the author breaks the chronology of the book? Why do you think he changes the narrative voice through the book? What difference does it make in the way you read or understand it?
7. What main ideas does the author explore? Does the author use symbols to reinforce the main ideas? Does the author’s use of language tell us anything about these ideas?
8. Why do you think the book is called ‘Being Someone’?
9. What passages strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of dialog that's funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there's a particular comment that states the book's thematic concerns?
10. Is the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?
11. If you could ask Sophie a question, what would you ask?