

My Invented Life

Book Group Guide

Discussion Questions

1. Who is your favorite character? Least favorite? Why?
2. Eyeliner Andie is a prickly person. Why does Roz want to be her friend?
4. In Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT, Rosalind disguises herself as man to escape the castle. When she meets her true love in the forest, she keeps her disguise to find out more about him. Why does Roz assume a different identity?
5. Does Roz achieve her goals? Does her new identity help or hinder her quest?
6. Should Roz throw off her disguise in the end?
7. Think of a GLBTQ person you know. Is that person open about his or her sexual identity (like Roz) or does he or she keep it hidden (like Eva)? Why?
8. Have you ever heard someone say, "That's so Gay!?" How did it make you feel?
9. Day to day life is filled with examples of acceptance and intolerance of all kinds. Share your experiences with the group.

Recipe and Snack:

Potato and Chard Soup with Pesto Garnish

Start with six cups of vegetable stock. I use mushroom bullion, but any stock can be substituted. Add 4 sliced potatoes and simmer. I leave the peels on because it's healthier.

While the potatoes are cooking, sauté one sliced onion and 2 cloves of minced garlic in olive oil over low heat. After five minutes, add 2 carrots, 2 stalks of celery. Sauté for 10 minutes.

Add sautéed veggies and 1 bunch of clean and chopped chard (or substitute kale, beet greens, collard greens, spinach) to stock and potatoes. Simmer until potatoes and veggies are soft.

Puree the soup with a blending wand right in the pot. A blender or food processor will work, too.

Serve with a dollop of pesto and goat cheese. If that sounds too adventurous, sprinkle with parmesan.

Serves 6-8

Mayan Hot Chocolate

Cut a small chile pepper in half and remove the seed. Boil chile in 2 cups water until volume is one cup.

Strain chili and seeds from remaining water and discard. Keep water for later.

Combine 5 cups milk with one vanilla bean (split in half) and a cinnamon stick. 2 tsp of vanilla can be substituted for the vanilla bean. Cook over a medium heat until milk steams and bubbles form around the edges.

Lower the flame and add 8 oz of dark chocolate. Stir with a whisk as the chocolate melts to avoid burning.

Add chili water to taste. Remove vanilla bean and cinnamon stick before serving.

Garnish with whipped cream if desired.

Project or Craft Idea

Look through this list of famous Shakespeare quotes. Pick 3 favorites. See if you can use all three while socializing or during the discussion.

What's done can't be undone.

False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

Some rise by sin, and some by virtue fall.

Nature hath framed strange fellows in her time.

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff.

Parting is such sweet sorrow.

What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

Better a witty fool than a foolish wit.

I say there is no darkness but ignorance.

The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose.

Can one desire too much of a good thing?

I will praise any man that will praise me.

The lady doth protest too much, methinks.

Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs.

All the world's a stage

Eye of newt, and toe of frog...

I like this place and willingly could waste my time in it.

There's many a man has more hair than wit.

Being born is like being kidnapped. And then sold into slavery.

Nothing can come of nothing.

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.

How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child!

It is a wise father that knows his own child.

Love sought is good, but given unsought, is better.

Neither a borrower nor a lender be.

O, what a goodly outside falsehood hath!

Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind.

The course of true love never did run smooth.

It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.

Maids want nothing but husbands, and when they have them, they want everything.

This above all; to thine own self be true.

What is past is prologue.

Web links

Shakespearean Curse Generator: www.trevorstone.org/curse/

Online ouija: www.museumoftalkingboards.com/WebOuija.html

Another online ouija: www.thecenter2000.com/html/Ouija/

GLBT Youth web forum: www.thegyc.com/fireboard/

A list of resources for lesbian youth: www.lesbian.com/youth/youth_intro.html

Related reads

BOY MEETS BOY by David Levithan

HARD LOVE by Ellen Wittlinger

DRAMARAMA by E. Lockhart

TOTALLY JOE by James Howe

THE EARTH, MY BUTT, AND OTHER BIG ROUND THINGS by Carolyn Mackler

Play list

Alanis Morissette - Sister Blister

Fountains of Wayne - Stacy's Mom

Melissa Etheridge - Refugee

Madonna - Hung Up HQ

Fool's Garden - Bighouse Pyromaniac

Eric Clapton - Tears in Heaven

Weezer - Undone (The Sweater Song)

The Butchies - Send Me You

Avril Lavigne - Complicated