



IAM READERS GUILD

Discussion Guide

The Remains of the Day

Kazuo Ishiguro

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1. Did you find the narrator reliable? How do you react to Stevens as a narrator throughout the course of the book?
2. How does Stevens interact with his work? Is his seriousness admirable?
3. "Dignity" is defined and discussed multiple times; do you agree with their definitions?
4. How does Stevens react to his different employers? What does this say about his values?
5. Reflect upon Stevens' initial feelings about bantering and his feelings at the pier. What are your thoughts on his statement, "[bantering] is not such a foolish thing to indulge in - particularly if it is the case that in bantering lies the key to human warmth" (p. 245)? Do you think that he will learn to banter?
6. What role does professionalism and trust play in the novel? How is it manifested between employees, between employer and employee, at the international conferences, and along Stevens' road trip?
7. Given your knowledge of the time period and the surrounding historical events, what is your opinion of this fictional take on ancillary details and events?

The questions below are merely prompts to get your discussion going. Keep a brief record of the most interesting ideas that come up during your discussion, and after the meeting, send us a summary (around a paragraph long) to post to the Readers Guild blog! (Email your summary to readersguild@internationalartsmovement.org.)