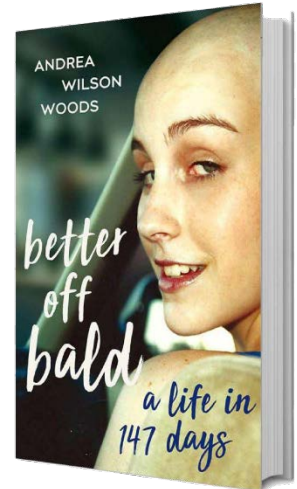


better off bald a life in 147 days

Book Club Discussion Guide

By Andrea Wilson Woods



1. Did the book appeal to you? Why or why not?
2. What scene stuck with you the most?
3. Read your favorite passage of the book to the group and explain why you chose it.
4. Did you find the author's story compelling?
5. What do you think motivated the author to share her story? Do you think she was honest?
6. How did this book compare to other similar memoirs? (e.g., *When Breath Becomes Air*)
7. Did the quality of writing match the story? What did you think of the author's style and voice?
8. The author chose to structure the book like a journal so both her and her sister's points of view would be part of the story. Did you like the journal structure? Why or why not?
9. As a reader, you know going into the book that Adrienne has died. Did this knowledge affect your pace of reading? Did you race to the end or was it more of a slow burn?
10. *Better Off Bald* is based on events that occurred in 2001. Does the story seem relevant today?
11. While she was writing the first draft, the author was criticized for the title of the book. Do you like the title and why do you think she chose it?
12. The author gave a detailed account of her sister's battle with cancer. Did the details overwhelm you? Do you feel you have a better understanding of what it is really like for cancer patients and their caregivers when they battle cancer?
13. The story is devastating yet the author writes with humor. Did you ever laugh while you read the book? If so, when did you laugh and why?
14. On the surface, the book seems to be about Adrienne v. cancer (man v. nature). But on a deeper level, the story is about the author and her sister v. their mother (man v. man) and Adrienne v. her own anger & depression (man v. himself). Did you pick up on those layers? If so, what is your impression of the sisters' mother?
15. Adrienne believed her depression and anger caused her cancer. What are your thoughts about this theory?
16. How did the book impact you? Do you think you will remember it in a few months or years?
17. How did the memoir make you reflect on your own life?
18. What lesson did you learn from reading the story?
19. Would you recommend this book to someone else? If so, what would you say about it?
20. If you could ask the author anything, what would it be?

If you and your book club would like to arrange a Zoom Meeting to discuss the book with me, please email me at andrea@andrewilsonwoods.com

Thank you for reading!

Andrea Wilson Woods