

During our June meeting we discussed **'Klara and the Sun' by Kazuo Ishiguro**

The book presents a vision of the near future where a class system is fully established. At the top are those who have been genetically altered to become intellectually superior, a process known as lifting, which is only available to the well off. Those who are not lifted have limited access to high-ranking education and careers. The bottom layer is composed of robots/androids who can perform many jobs and functions including becoming artificial friends to lifted children.

The story is narrated by one of these artificial friends called Klara. We are asked to reflect on many issues such the nature of love and the definition of 'human'. The book is about grief, loneliness and individuality and also, through Klara, the power of optimism. This may sound very heavy but Klara is a charming and likeable character and the story is compelling.

We all had different views and there was a lively discussion. We all agreed it expanded our horizons and forced us to consider difficult questions.

Some of us found it a frightening image of the near future. Some of us were disappointed with the ending. Most of us enjoyed it and some of us considered it a work of art.

