

**Book Club Questions for
Mika in Real Life by Emiko Jean**

1. Reflecting on the title "Mika in Real Life," do you believe Mika's previous experiences can be considered a genuine representation of living an authentic life? Why or why not?
2. The novel embraces both digital communication and traditional letters as vehicles for emotional connection, evident in interactions between characters like Caroline and Mika, and Mika and Penny. What significance do these letters hold, and how do they deepen the bonds between the characters?
3. The narrative of the novel explores the complexities of relationships and the consequences of personal choices. How do the diverse characters, each with their own flaws and struggles, contribute to the overall themes of the novel? Which character's journey resonated with you the most and why?
4. Mika's relationship with her mother, Hiromi, is fraught with challenges. In what ways could Mika cultivate a more empathetic understanding of her mother's perspective? Is there value in attempting to bridge this emotional divide?
5. Hiromi seems to form a unique connection with Penny, her grandchild whom she has never met. Why do you think Hiromi finds it easier to connect with Penny compared to her relationship with Mika?
6. How did the revelation of Penny's birth father's identity impact your perception of the characters and the story's dynamics?
7. Among the secondary characters, such as Hana, Leif, and Charlie, who resonated with you the most, and why did they stand out?
8. Were there instances where you found Thomas's actions or decisions to be overly cautious or unreasonable? What factors may have influenced his perspective?
9. Envisioning a scenario five years into the future, how do you envision the lives of Penny, Mika, and Thomas unfolding? Speculate on the paths they might take and the developments they might experience.
10. The novel has received both praise and criticism for its portrayal of Mika's decisions and the subsequent consequences. How do you perceive Mika's choices throughout the story? Do you believe her motivations justify her actions, or do you find her actions ethically questionable?
11. Did you find the plot to be predictable? If so, did this impact your enjoyment of the novel, or did you appreciate the predictability as a narrative choice? How do elements of predictability and familiarity contribute to the overall tone and atmosphere of the book?

12. Many reviewers have drawn parallels between Emiko Jean's background as a YA author and her transition to adult fiction with this novel. How do you perceive the influence of her YA roots on "Mika in Real Life"? Do you find elements of YA storytelling and themes present in the narrative, and if so, how do they contribute to the overall reading experience?