



# STUTTGART BOOK CLUB READING GUIDE

## *A Room with a View* by E.M.Forster

### About This Book

Set in Florence and Surrey, this book depicts the struggle for the soul of its heroine, Lucy Honeychurch. It examines the English abroad, at home and in the country as Lucy's sincere feelings are contrasted with her prudish cousin Charlotte, her supercilious fiance and the unconventional Emersons.

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### Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the role of nature in the book and its relevance to the struggles of characters to make decisions about their lives.
2. Do you think that Lucy has a strong character? Is she an example of a strong woman?
3. What is Forster's view of art in this book? Are there right and wrong ways to apprehend and appreciate artwork? Some characters seem to manipulate art in ways that seem inappropriate. Which characters do this and what makes their actions wrong?
4. Who are the villains in the book? What is it about their faults that makes them so abhorrent? Which ones are the worst, and why?
5. Charlotte and Mr. Beebe both act "out of character" near the end of the book. How can these behaviors be accounted for, given what is known about them so far? Do you think that Forster gives satisfactory preparation for their actions? If not, what purpose does the ambiguity serve?
6. Discuss the importance of Italy in the book. What does Italy represent for Lucy? How does it change her? How does life in England compare to life in Italy?
7. What do you think about the way the British travelers in Italy conceive of Italians? How might their attitudes reflect the elitist mindset that Forster seems to criticize throughout the book? What, if any, relevance do you think this may have upon British imperialist ideas?
8. Mr. Emerson sees a day when men and women will be equal and proclaims that this time will be like a paradise. What are the traditional ideas of womanhood that Lucy has brought from her youth? Which characters seem to perpetuate these ideas?
9. Mr. Beebe praises Lucy's musical skills, and believes that musicians have minds more complex and more mysterious than other artists. Yet Lucy twice comments that music seems silly when compared to other things, such as playing tennis. What do you think makes her say that music seems "the employment of a child?"