



6700 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131 • Voice: 515-278-5233 • Fax: 515-278-4975 • info@johnstonlibrary.com

Johnston Public Library Book Discussion Questions

Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs? by Caitlin Doughty

Summary

Every day, funeral director Caitlin Doughty receives dozens of questions about death. The best questions come from kids.

What would happen to an astronaut's body if it were pushed out of a space shuttle? Do people poop when they die? Can Grandma have a Viking funeral?

In *Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?*, Doughty blends her mortician's knowledge of the body and the intriguing history behind common misconceptions about corpses to offer factual, hilarious, and candid answers to thirty-five distinctive questions posed by her youngest fans.

In her inimitable voice, Doughty details lore and science of what happens to, and inside, our bodies after we die. Why do corpses groan? What causes bodies to turn colors during decomposition? And why do hair and nails appear longer after death?

Readers will learn the best soil for mummifying your body, whether you can preserve your best friend's skull as a keepsake, and what happens when you die on a plane.

Discussion Questions

1. Of the 35 questions asked in this book, which do you find most intriguing? Which are the funniest? What questions would you want to ask Caitlin Doughty?
2. What have you learned after reading *Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?*
3. Doughty compares the silence surrounding issues of death to the ways we deal with conversations around sex. Do you agree?
4. (Follow-up to Question 3) Adults tend to shut down children's questions about death. Is that wise? What about instituting "death education" classes in school or in church for children? At what age should young people learn about dying and death?
5. Doughty's mission, in her books, including this one, and on her YouTube series, "Ask a Mortician," is to dispel our fear of death, adults' as well as children's. Does this book help in achieving that goal? After reading *Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?*, do you have a different attitude toward, or understanding of, death and dying?

Summary and Discussion Questions from Lit Lovers.com