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## Johnston Public Library Book Discussion Questions

### **The Last Chance Library** by Freya Sampson

#### Summary

Lonely librarian June Jones has never left the sleepy English village where she grew up. Shy and reclusive, the thirty-year-old would rather spend her time buried in books than venture out into the world. But when her library is threatened with closure, June is forced to emerge from behind the shelves to save the heart of her community and the place that holds the dearest memories of her mother.

Joining a band of eccentric yet dedicated locals in a campaign to keep the library, June opens herself up to other people for the first time since her mother died. It just so happens that her old school friend Alex Chen is back in town and willing to lend a helping hand. The kindhearted lawyer's feelings for her are obvious to everyone but June, who won't believe that anyone could ever care for her in that way.

To save the place and the books that mean so much to her, June must finally make some changes to her life. For once, she's determined not to go down without a fight. And maybe, in fighting for her cherished library, June can save herself, too.

#### Discussion Questions

1. At the start of the novel June prefers to be alone with her books rather than to interact with her neighbors. How do her feelings towards solitude evolve by the end of the novel?
2. The library is the center of the community in the small village of Chalcot. What is the center of your community?
3. Many of June's childhood memories center around specific books such as *Matilda*. Did you read any books as a child that shaped who you are today? Have you revisited them since?
4. June's grief for her mother causes her to push friends away. What events and people in the book help her navigate the grief? How?
5. June has certain books she reads and rereads to comfort herself in times of stress. Do you have books (or movies or TV shows) that you return to? Why?

6. Many of the characters who spend time at the library have secrets. Whose surprised you the most?
7. For June, the library is not just a place where one can borrow books but a place to grow, learn, and change as well as make human connections. If you frequent your local library, do you make use of all the resources that a library can provide? Have you been going your whole life?
8. Have you seen small businesses and neighborhood institutions bought up by national chains in your town? How does it make you feel?
9. June and her friends must break the rules to save the library. Have you ever had to bend the rules to work toward a bigger purpose? How did it make you feel?
10. If Alex asked you for a book recommendation, what would you recommend that he check out from the library?

Summary from GoodReads.com  
Discussion Questions from PenguinRandomHouse.com