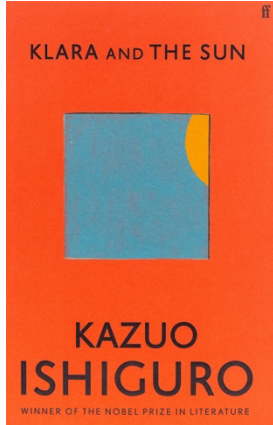


Klara and the Sun

By Kazuo Ishiguro



Klara is an 'Artificial Friend', a humanoid machine bought to act as a companion to 14-year old Josie and to help her navigate growing up through the tricky adolescent years. AFs are common among the wealthy and successful but their life-likeness is still unsettling for people. A woman meeting Klara for the first time says to her, 'One never knows how to greet a guest like you. After all, are you a guest at all? Or do I treat you like a vacuum cleaner?' The novel is told by Klara herself and shows that though she also has consciousness and (perhaps) feelings. And her devotion to Josie is absolute. The novel explores the possibilities of Artificial Intelligence and the blurred boundaries between human and machine. Along the way it also asks questions about parents and children, privilege and inequality, and above all the meaning of love

Other Kazuo Ishiguro novels to look out for

Never Let Me Go

The Remains of the Day

The Buried Giant

Discussion Questions

1. Is 'Artificial Friend' the right name for what Klara is?
2. What makes a good friend? Are Klara and Josie good friends to each other?
3. In your view, what tasks or services is it ok to pay for? Sex? Childcare? Education? Healthcare? Are there things that we can't or shouldn't be allowed to buy?

