

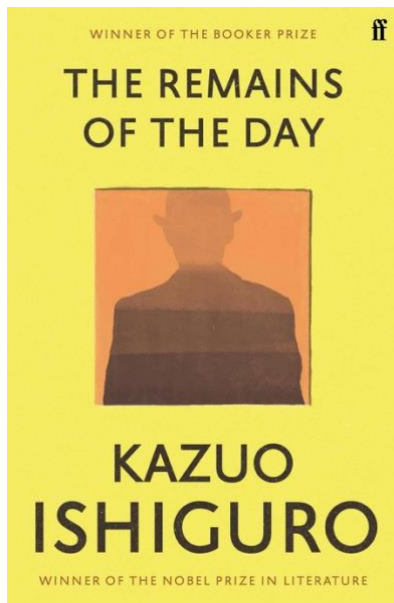


Book Talk

The Remains of the Day

By Kazuo Ishiguro

Number of pages: 272



The Remains of the Day is a story told by Stevens, a butler to a stately home. During a driving holiday, he reminisces about his time working in the house in the run-up to WWII. He reflects on his commitment to service and loyalty in a changing world, his relationship with his father, and his feelings about the housekeeper.

The novel won the 1989 Booker Prize for fiction and the 1993 film adaptation was nominated for eight academy awards. Kazuo Ishiguro won the 2017 Nobel Prize for Literature and has been nominated for the Booker Prize four times.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed *Atonement* by Ian McEwan, or other books by Ishiguro such as *Klara and the Sun*.

Discussion Questions:

1. The book has an 'unreliable narrator' – how does this impact how the reader understands the story and the actions of the people in it?
2. How does Stevens' attitude to his work shape his personality and personal life?
3. Would Stevens and Miss Kenton have been happy together if they had been a romantic couple?
4. Do you think this book presents small-town English life in a realistic way?
5. Did Lord Darlington deserve Stevens' loyalty and sacrifice?
6. What does Stevens learn during the book and what do you think he does next?

Thank you to our volunteer Erin for choosing this title and creating the resource.