

Reading group questions: Diana Cambridge's *Don't Think a Single Thought*

There are three versions of the childhood school accident within the story: which one do you think is nearest the truth?

What – even on a desert island – could Emma not be without?

Elizabeth Bowen and Patricia Highsmith are Emma's favourite novelists. How do you feel about these writers?

Yellow is Emma's favourite colour. Why do you think she favours yellow?

What did you think of her favourite wedding gift? Can you relate to her feelings about this gift?

What do you think of the relationship between Emma and Jonathan?

How close was she to her brother Mikey? Could he have been the father of the baby she gave up?

According to Emma, no child in care really wants to be adopted. To be adopted is like being chosen and bought from a store, she believes. What do you think?

Is she addicted to tranquillisers, pain killers and sleeping pills - or just a "user"?

Which plays the greatest part in Emma's depressions – her early childhood, the school accident, or her declining career?

Could Jonathan have done more to help Emma? What could he have done?

Is Emma's shoplifting a cry for help, a quick fix for unhappiness or a way of acquiring things she believes she deserves?

Did Emma take her own life – or was there someone else involved on the day she died?

Is there a little bit of Emma in all women?

Is Jonathan's refusal ever to discuss Emma after her death a sign of disrespect – or a sign of dignity?