

Discussion Questions for *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney

Some questions taken or adapted from <https://us.macmillan.com/lillianboxfishtakesawalk/kathleenrooney/9781250113320/>

1. How do Lillian's feelings regarding her mother and her Aunt Sadie shape Lillian's ambitions and sense of self?
2. Have you ever loved a city or a place so much that you never wanted to leave it? Where and why, or why not?
3. Why are manners and kindness so important to Lillian? How does civility relate to empathy and even to democracy?
4. How do Lillian's achievements and struggles at the office at Macy's—with her boss; with getting paid as much as her male colleagues; with her friend and rival coworkers, Helen and Olive—relate to the workplace as we know it today?
5. Why does Artie, Lillian's editor, want to change the title of her debut poetry collection from *Oh, Do Not Ask for Promises to Frequent Wishing on the Gracious Moon*? And why does she refuse? Do you think he was right or wrong, and were you pleased or disappointed when she said no? Explain why.
6. How worried, if at all, did you feel about Lillian as she made her way across Manhattan? Were you troubled by any of her encounters? Heartened? Both? Which ones and why?
7. Lillian can't stand the new and ugly Penn Station, built in 1968, that replaced the old and beautiful original—are there structures in your past that were torn down that you miss, too? Describe.
8. Did you find the characters believable?
9. Did you find the dialog believable?
10. Has anyone had any other experiences that relate to places or experiences in the book?
11. Any comments about the way the book ended?
12. Do you want to read the author's next book?
13. Are there questions you would like to ask?