



# Colorado Book Club Resource

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE SOUL OF AN OCTOPUS: A SURPRISING EXPLORATION INTO THE WONDER OF CONSCIOUSNESS BY SY MONTGOMERY**

1. How does Montgomery describe the different personalities that the octopuses have? Do you agree with her assessments of the attributes? Can you relate to the emotions that she interprets them to have?
2. Otherness is a central issue of the book. How does Montgomery use the “otherness” of the octopus to show the ways that humans in the story can feel that they don’t fit in or belong?
3. What are the similarities between octopuses and humans that Montgomery sees?
4. What does Montgomery reveal about what constitutes consciousness in humans and animals? Does she show octopuses have consciousness?
5. Does Montgomery address and answer the question whether an octopus can have a soul?
6. Given what science now knows about anthropomorphism, is it a problem to be dealt with?
7. Many cultures consume octopuses as food. Do you see any issues?

***Questions from the Readingbug.com***



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