

# Bookies Discussion Questions for *The Reason I Jump*

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3:05 PM

LitLovers talking points for *The Reason I Jump*:

1. What new insights have you gained by reading Naoki Higashida's book? surprised you most about his depiction of what it is like to be autistic?
2. David Mitchell says that the problems of socialization and communication people with autism display "are not symptoms of autism but consequences." What does he mean exactly...what is the difference as Mitchell sees it?

3. Talk about Naoki's statement that autism may be a result of our growing disconnect with nature:

*I think that people with autism are born outside the regime of civilisation... [in which] a deep sense of crisis exists... Autism has somehow arisen out of this... if, by our being here, we could help the people of the world remember what truly matters for the Earth, that would give us a quiet pleasure.*

What do you think of that assessment? Is there any truth in what Naoki says?

4. Talk about the way in which Naoki believes that he and others with autism feel a sense of guilt: "The hardest ordeal for us is the idea that we are grief for other people." What would you say (or have you said) to Naoki or other individual with autism.

5. Naoki indicates that language, which the rest of us use to communicate feelings, actually gets in the way of feelings: that language is simply conveying our astonishment at the world. Have you ever felt the inadequacy words to describe your own experiences?

6. Do you know someone, a friend or a member of your own family, with autism? If so, how true does this book ring for you?

***SOME REMARKS from Marilyn V. on her family's experience.***

7. What is the state of treatment and/or understanding of autism today? do we (society and the medical profession) need to learn about autism? Does this book help? Will it make a difference?

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