Discussion Questions

Elizabeth the Queen

Life of a Modern Monarch

Sally Bedell Smith

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| What **observations**are made in the book?   1. Does Smith examine economics and politics, family traditions, the arts, religious beliefs? How? 2. Does Smith **criticize or admire** the culture? 3. Does she wish to preserve or change the way of life? 4. Either way, what would be risked or gained? 5. What is **different** from our own culture? What do you find most surprising, intriguing or  difficult to understand? 6. Do the issues in the Brittish culture **affect our lives**? How so — directly,on a daily basis, or more generally? 7. What **evidence** does Smith use to support the book's ideas? Is the evidence convincing...definitive or...speculative? 8. Does Smith depend on personal opinion, observation, and assessment? Or is the evidence factual? 9. What kind of **language** does Smith use? Is it objective and dispassionate? Or passionate and earnest? Is it polemical, inflammatory, sarcastic? Does the language help or undercut Smith's premise? 10. What are the **implications** for the future? Are there long- or short-term consequences to the issues raised in the book? Are they positive or negative...affirming or frightening? 11. What **solutions** does Smith propose? Who would implement those solutions? How probable is success? 12. How **controversial** are the issues raised in the book? Who is aligned on which sides of the issues? Where do you fall in that line-up? 13. Talk about **specific passages** that struck you as significant—or interesting, profound, amusing, illuminating, disturbing, sad...? 14. What was memorable? 15. What have you **learned** after reading this book? Has it broadened your perspective about a difficult issue—personal or societal? 16. Has it introduced you to a culture in another country? |  |