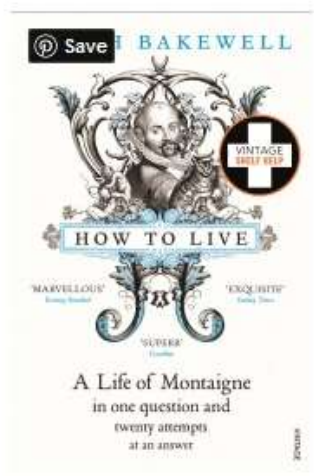


November 2020



We had a great meeting this month discussing *How to Live or A Life of Montaigne in one question and twenty attempts at an answer* by Sarah Bakewell. Many of us have seen many references to The Essays over the years, from Jan Morris to Robert Dassaix, talking about how much they appreciated Montaigne's gentle observations, acceptance of human frailties and generosity of spirit. We each found some great lessons in *How to Live*, such as the answer in Chapter 4: "Read a lot, forget most of what you read, and be slow-witted"!

We much admired Sarah Bakewell's scholarship – the way she drew together details of Montaigne's life, the times in which he lived, his influence during his lifetime and over the subsequent centuries and how effectively she applied all that to his writings. Her analysis of where Montaigne sits within Western philosophical thought was very accessible and readable. What struck us all was the universality and timelessness of Montaigne's understanding of the human condition.

Ratings: Dianne, Jenny, Kim Lynda, Nicola and Sandy 4; Janet, Margie, Pauline and Viv, 3.

Our next meeting will be at Preece House on 14/12/20 at 6:30PM to discuss *Invisible Cities* by Italo Calvino.

Hope to see you all there and happy reading!

November 2020

Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov, 4

The First Stone by Helen Garner, 4

My Purple Scented Novel by Ian McEwan, 4

All Our Shimmering Skies by Trent Dalton, 3.5

One Hundred Years of Dirt by Rick Morton, 3.5

Miss Iceland by Audur Ava Olafsdottir, 4

Turbulence by David Szalay, 4

Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel, 5

The Dissent of Annie Hall by Ros Franey, 2.5

Reaper Man by Terry Pratchett, 3.5

The Anarchy: The East India Company, ... by William Dalrymple, 4

Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler, 3.5

Night. Sleep. Death. The Stars by Joyce Carol Oates, 4

The Question of Love by Hugh Mackay, 3.5

Landscape of Farewell by Alex Miller, 3

The Whole Picture by Alice Procter, 5

Unquiet: A novel by Linn Uhlmann, 4

The Wild Silence by Raynor Winn, 3.5