

## ESL Book Club 2024– February Discussion Questions

### The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Discussion Date: Feb 2, 2024, 10:30 am – 12 pm in Central Park Library – Sycamore Room

1. Stella and Desiree Vignes grow up identical and, as children, inseparable. Later, they are not only separated, but lost to each other, completely out of contact. What series of events and experiences leads to this separation and why?
2. When did you notice cracks between the twins begin to form? Do you understand why Stella made the choice she did?
3. What did Stella have to give up, in order to live a different kind of life? Was it necessary to leave Desiree behind? Do you think Stella ultimately regrets her choices?
4. How do you think Stella was able to hide the fact that she's black for so long? How do you think she was able to conceal it from Blake? Do you think she will ever tell him the truth?
5. What did you think about the relationship between Desiree and Early? How does it differ from Stella and Blake's?
6. Kennedy is born with everything handed to her, Jude with comparatively little. How does it affect their relationships with their mothers and their understanding of home?
7. If they would have actually developed a true friendship, do you think Stella would have ever told her neighbor Loretta the truth about who she really is? Do you think Loretta suspected anything about Stella?
8. Why did Stella finally decide to go home? What did you think about the reunion of Desiree and Stella? Why didn't Stella stay longer?

9. Why do you think Jude and Kennedy end up staying in touch after everything is all said and done?
  
10. What did you think about the ending? Were you happy to see Desiree finally leave Mallard?
  
11. What else struck you about the book as good or bad? What did you like or dislike about it that we haven't discussed already?
  
12. Did you think the story was funny, sad, touching, disturbing, moving? Why or why not?
  
13. Did you find the author's writing style easy to read or hard to read? Why? How long did it take you to get into the book?
  
14. Rate this book on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest.