



Spring 2022 Book Club Discussion Questions

Haben Girma: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law

1. Haben's memoir is not your typical memoir. It is written in the present tense and uses descriptive details that we don't see in a memoir. This creates a new connection for many readers. How did this impact your connection to the book?
2. In life, our first advocates are our parents. In her memoir, Haben shares experiences that infer that she became her own advocate early in her journey. Also, Mrs. Scott serves as a key advocate for Haben in school. Considering these levels of advocacy, are there ways in which we can inspire our students, faculty, and staff to be advocates for themselves while we serve as allies/supporters?
3. A common theme in Haben's memoir is a sense of belonging. As a deaf-blind woman, Haben battles feeling left out. She says...I hate missing out, I hate exclusion... We also see her college roommate exclude her before giving her a chance. Are there ways in which we can improve our inclusion efforts for our community (as a whole and individually)?
4. *"Somehow, somehow, I am going to create a community who believes that disability itself is not a barrier."* Haben shows determination and a passion for advocacy before college. Today she continues to be an advocate for the disabled community. After reading this book, can you identify moments of ableism, and is your outlook different now? Are there things that Emory can do better?

Resources for programming/events

- Emory University – Department of Accessibility Services
 - o <https://accessibility.emory.edu/accessible-events/index.html>
- University of Michigan – Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - o <https://diversity.umich.edu/resources/accessible-inclusive-events-resource-guide/>