

Reading Group Discussion Questions for *Vivian in Red*

Do you think it was really love between Milo and Vivian? Or infatuation? And how was this different from Milo's perspective, and Vivian's? Why or why not?

Do you think, in another time, Milo and Vivian could have had a successful romance? Why or why not?

Milo resists Vivian's attempts to woo him into a relationship because of their different cultures and his family's expectations. Do you think it's possible to "turn off" feelings of love?

What did Bee represent for Milo in contrast to Vivian?

How much credit does Vivian deserve for the lyrics to "Love Me, I Guess" ?

What, if anything, could Milo have done differently for Vivian, in 1936? And in what ways did the time he lived in affect the way he treated her at the end?

Milo's friend, Bernard Allen, lived a closeted life, while Cole Porter's homosexuality was an open secret. How different would the story have been if Allen had been able to live openly the way he wanted?

In what ways does Eleanor feel like the "odd one out" in her family? What are times when you have felt like the "odd one out" in your life?

Why do you think Eleanor has so much trouble finding her way in work and love?

What are your favorite songs written during the Golden Age of Popular Song? What do you think makes these songs so timeless that artists still record them today?