



## *Yes Please by Amy Poehler*

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### **About the author:**

Amy Poehler is a writer, actress, producer, and director who is known for her years on Saturday Night Live, her starring role as Leslie Knope on the beloved series Parks and Recreation, as the voice of Joy in Pixar's Inside Out, and for being third runner-up for Most Casual in her high-school yearbook. She lives in New York City and Los Angeles with her two boys. She hopes this book will get her invited for lunch on a fancy yacht with her hero Judge Judy. She is dressed and ready.

Source: HarperCollins Publishers (<https://www.harpercollins.com/>)

### **About this book:**

Do you want to get to know the woman we first came to love on Comedy Central's Upright Citizens Brigade? Do you want to spend some time with the lady who made you howl with laughter on Saturday Night Live, and in movies like Baby Mama, Blades of Glory, and They Came Together? Do you find yourself daydreaming about hanging out with the actor behind the brilliant Leslie Knope on Parks and Recreation? Did you wish you were in the audience at the last two Golden Globes ceremonies, so you could bask in the hilarity of Amy's one-liners?

If your answer to these questions is "Yes Please!" then you are in luck. In her first book, one of our most beloved funny folk delivers a smart, pointed, and ultimately inspirational read. Full of the comedic skill that makes us all love Amy, Yes Please is a rich and varied collection of stories, lists, poetry (Plastic Surgery Haiku, to be specific), photographs, mantras and advice. With chapters like "Treat Your Career Like a Bad Boyfriend," "Plain Girl Versus the Demon" and "The Robots

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"Will Kill Us All" Yes Please will make you think as much as it will make you laugh. Honest, personal, real, and righteous, Yes Please is full of words to live by.

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### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Amy Poehler comes across as modest and self-deprecating, especially when she says she fears that she hasn't "lived a life full enough to look back on." Think about that sentence. Is she right? Has her life lacked fullness, or has she lived a rather full life? Do you believe that you have lived a full-enough life to write about? At what age, or under what circumstances, have any of us lived long enough to reflect on and, perhaps, to offer solice or advice to others?
2. Follow-up to Question 1: Poehler also goes on to say in that same sentence (from above) that she's "too old to get by on being pithy and cute." In Yes Please does she fall back on cuteness...or does she offer solid insights into her own life—insights which can serve as advice to others? In other words, what do you think of Poehler's book: is it cute, or is it substantive...or a bit of both?
3. Poehler seems to indicate that her success hasn't been a matter of luck or due to the kindness of others (yes, many people offered helped along the way) but rather the result of desire, hard work, and ability. What do you think of her claim? To what extent are any of us responsible for our successes...and failures? How much do we depend on sheer luck and help from family or mentors. On the other hand, how important is personal drive, focus, and ability?
4. In what way is Yes Please as much (if not more) a book about Poehler's path to maturity than it is about her road to success?

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5. What insights have you gained in reading Yes Please? Is there any part of Poehler's experience that parallels your own journey in life?

6. One critic has said that the chapter "I'm So Proud of You," should be required reading in high school. Do you agree? Why or why not?

7. What about the chapter "Sorry, Sorry, Sorry"? Why was it so difficult for Poehler to admit her error? What does it reveal about her as a person? Has something similar ever happened to you?

8. Talk about the book's structure. Does it feel coherent, disorganized, over-stuffed with fillers...or just about right?

9. What does Yes Please reveal about the field of entertainment and the people who work in it? Has it altered your opinion of celebrities and show business...for the better or for the worse? Or has it confirmed your previous beliefs?

10. On the whole, how do you feel about Amy Poehler after reading Yes Please?

Source: LitLovers (<http://www.litlovers.com/>)

**Other formats available at Halifax Public Libraries:**

- Audiobook (on CD and digital download)
- eBook