

# Winter Book Club



Beautiful moments can happen when women gather and share their experiences. Such was the outcome when Guardian Women hosted a book club meeting recently.

The latest addition to our bookshelf is **So Big** by Edna Ferber, a book that truly represents the essence of our goals for Guardian Women: thought-provoking ideas about the meaning of wealth and having agency over your financial well-being (the sense of control, ability, and confidence in making decisions) ...plus, it was simply a good read, with a big and expansive story about an intriguing and admirable lead character in Selina!

**So Big** asks us to contemplate the power of believing in ourselves and having a vision and a plan to prepare for the future. Four prominent themes in the story offer a starting point for having rich, and meaningful conversations:

## 01 Legacy and Impact

**So Big** teaches the lesson of leaving a lasting legacy and making an impact on the world. Selina wishes her son, Dirk, to follow in her footsteps, carrying on her love for the land and making a positive impact through his own hands. But Dirk has a different set of values and ambitions that go against Selina's desires.

## 02 Ambition and Success

The book explores ambition and the pursuit of success. Selina is ambitious and driven to make a better life for herself. Through her hard work and determination, she achieves success as a schoolteacher turned farmer. Dirk, however, gives up his passion for material success and societal recognition.

## 03 Sacrifice and Love

Selina makes several sacrifices throughout the book, foregoing what she desires for the sake of her son and her farm. The book shows the deep love and dedication Selina has for her family and how love can drive individuals to do whatever it takes to ensure the well-being of their loved ones.

## 04 Pursuit of Happiness

The book posits what it truly means to lead a fulfilling life. Selina initially believes that success and material possessions are the keys to happiness. However, she eventually realizes that true happiness comes from meaningful connections, personal growth, and finding purpose in one's work.



Our discussions around the four themes offered thoughtful and generous answers. Guardian Women's ideas about **legacy** include making contributions to society and giving back. That **success** is not easily defined or a single result – it can be counted as small wins in everyday moments and achieving a sense of balance in your life. That we often make **sacrifices**, but we do it out of love, that it's a choice to commit to doing something. And finally, that **happiness** is joy that comes from within when we are at peace with ourselves.

Guardian Women will continue with its mandate of creating a platform for women to have meaningful discussions. We look forward to engaging with you again soon, so please keep an eye out for our next event or visit us online to join.

[www.guardianwomen.ca](http://www.guardianwomen.ca)



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Ferber, Edna, *So Big*, Harper Perennial Modern Classics: Reissue edition (April 23, 2019)., Originally published by Doubleday, Page & Company, New York, 1924. ISBN-10: 0061859982; ISBN-13: 978-0061859984

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