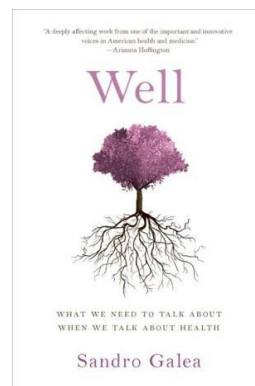


Discussion Guide

Well: What We Need to Talk About When We Talk About Health

By Sandro Galea

1. What does America's focus on medicine — and with it, a cultural gravitation toward tech, innovation, and pharmaceuticals — miss in the larger conversation around the country's health?
2. Galea mentions how the U.S., despite spending more on health than any other country, remains less healthy and lives shorter lives than people in other rich nations. Does that matter? Do Americans live better or worse lives in our uniquely American lifestyle?
3. How do the fabric and history of the U.S.— its history, wealth, politics, and power—contributes to today's healthcare crisis?
4. How is health tied to current conversations around gun law reform, immigration, environmental deregulation, the implications of tax reform, and entitlement programs?
5. What does the Sofia character tell us what is needed to fix America's health problems?
6. What role does race play in health in the United States?
7. Galea writes about how working as a doctor in Somalia motivated him to return to the United States to study public health. How would practicing medicine in Somalia compare to practicing public health in the U.S.? Are medicine and public health different? Which is more important?



Terms of Use: This Discussion Guide is used with permission from, and attributed to, Oxford University Press. It has been reformatted for the NNLM Reading Club for educational purposes.



National Library of Medicine
Network of the National Library of Medicine