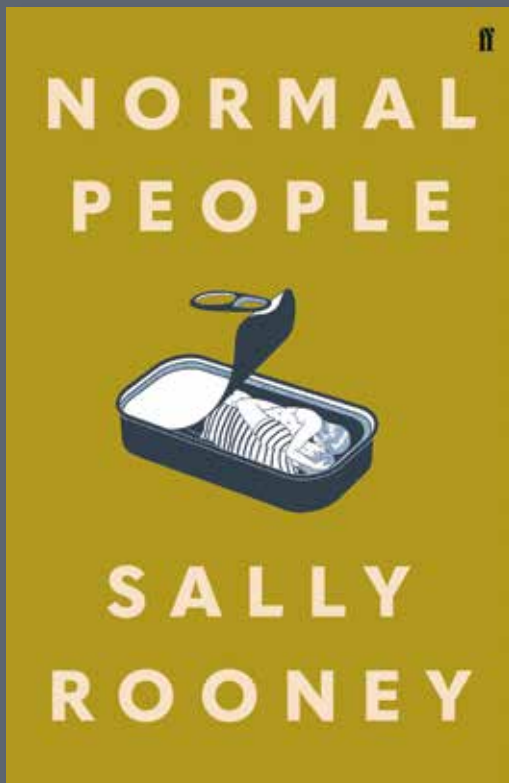




Readers' Guide



Other novels by Sally Rooney
Conversations with Friends (2017)

Normal People Sally Rooney

Faber & Faber

www.themanbookerprize.com
#FinestFiction #ManBooker2018

THE
READING
AGENCY

M
Man

The
Booker
Prize
Foundation

About the author	<p>Sally Rooney was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1991. She is the youngest ever winner of the Sunday Times PFD Young Writer of the Year Award. Her first novel <i>Conversations with Friends</i> was a <i>Sunday Times</i>, <i>Guardian</i>, <i>Observer</i>, <i>Daily Telegraph</i> and <i>Evening Standard</i> Book of the Year, receiving the most mentions in the end of year round-ups for a debut book from 2017. Her work has appeared in the <i>New Yorker</i>, <i>Granta</i>, <i>The White Review</i>, <i>The Dublin Review</i> and <i>The Stinging Fly</i>, among other publications. <i>Conversations with Friends</i> has been shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize, the Folio Prize, Debut Book of the Year at the British Book Awards, Bord Gais Irish Energy Awards – Newcomer, Books Are My Bag Readers Choice Award 2017 and longlisted for the Desmond Elliot Prize and Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year. In 2017 she was shortlisted for the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award. She is the editor of <i>The Stinging Fly</i> magazine. She lives in Dublin.</p>
About the book	<p>In school Connell and Marianne affect not to know each other. People know that Marianne lives in the white mansion with the driveway and that Connell's mother is a cleaner, but no one knows of the special relationship between these facts. Despite these social tangles, a connection grows between them and when they both get places to study at Trinity College in Dublin it lasts long into the following years.</p> <p><i>Normal People</i> is a love story about how a person can change another person's life – a simple yet profound realisation that unfolds beautifully over the course of the novel. It tells us how difficult it is to talk about how we feel and it tells us – blazingly – about cycles of domination, legitimacy and privilege.</p>
What the judges thought	<p>“A very intimate character study of two young people trying to figure out how to love each other, <i>Normal People</i> is written in compressed, composed, allusive prose that invites you read behind the lines. So much in it is shown and not told. Grounded in the everyday, it transforms what might have been a flimsy subject into something that demands a lot of the reader.”</p>
Discussion points	<p>What do you think is the relevance of the title <i>Normal People</i>?</p> <p>What does the book teach us about communication?</p> <p>How did you feel about the way the book jumps forward in time?</p> <p>In what way does Marianne's family have an impact on her relationships with other people?</p>
Themed reading	<p>Anthony Quinn <i>Freya</i> Lisa McInerney <i>The Glorious Heresies</i> David Nicholls <i>One Day</i> Haruki Murakami <i>Norwegian Wood</i></p>
Useful links	<p>https://writtenbysime.com/2018/06/11/review-normal-people-by-sally-rooney/</p> <p>https://lithub.com/sally-rooney-wants-to-start-the-revolution/</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/may/24/sally-rooney-conversations-with-friends-interview-salinger-snapchat-generation</p>