

## A Beautiful Mind

Questions created by the Everett Public Library staff:

1. Sylvia Nasar states that, "an Individual's vulnerability to schizophrenia, researchers now believe, lies in his genes. But psychological stresses are though to be catalysts." What were the catalysts that precipitated John Nash's mental decline? Do you think that his childhood experience and the influence of his parents had a mental bearing on his health?
2. In an article in Writer, Peter Ackroyd states that, "one of the secrets of the biographical art lies in the extent to which the biographer can intuit the personal stirrings of the individual consciousness; it is not a question of admiring or liking the subject of the narrative. It is a question of making him or her live upon the page." Does Sylvia Nasar succeed in this?

Questions created by Susan Fort for the Seattle Public Library Reading Group Toolbox

3. Why was Nash not able to commit to Eleanor and their son? Was his reluctance to commit a result of his illness?
4. Why was his wife Alicia so supportive?
5. Why did Nash receive so much support from the mathematical community? Why was Princeton receptive to his presence on the campus?
6. Can a reader appreciate this book without a mathematical and scientific background?
7. Why is Nash's mind considered "beautiful"?
8. What did winning the Nobel Prize mean to Nash?
9. For those who have seen the movie, how does it compare to the book? Which did you prefer?