



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

1. How does the opening scene, in which Ove attempts to purchase a computer, perfectly capture Ove's ongoing battle with the modern world?
2. As readers, we get to know Ove slowly as his past is revealed piece by piece. What surprised you about Ove's past? Why do you think the author revealed Ove's past the way he did?
3. Ove has been described as a cranky old man. How do his core values lead him to appear as such a grumpy individual, when, in fact, he is nothing of the sort? Which of these values do you agree or disagree with?
4. Ove is a believer in the value of routine. How can following a routine be both comforting and restrictive? In your opinion, should people try to balance routine and spontaneity, and why?
5. Which of the supporting cast (Parvaneh, Jimmy, the Lanky One, Anita) did you find yourself identifying with most?
6. Ove is consistently facing an ongoing battle with various types of bureaucracies. Is Ove's true fight with the various ruling bodies, or are they stand-ins and scapegoats for something else?
7. On page 246, the author muses that when people don't share sorrow, it can drive them apart. Do you agree with this and why?
8. What do you think of Ove's relationship with the mangy cat he adopts? What does the cat allow him to express that he couldn't otherwise say?

The above questions were adapted from http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/A-Man-Called-Ove/Fredrik-Backman/9781476738024/reading_group_guide to enhance your discussion of the book.

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