



Discussion Questions | *Meet Me at the Museum* by Anne Youngson

Please see below for questions that we'll use to loosely guide our discussion on January 10, 2022. Some of the questions are borrowed from the publisher's official book discussion guide, [which you can find here](#), and these are indicated with an asterisk (*).

1. *Meet Me at the Museum* is an epistolary novel told through a series of letters. Do you think this is an effective way to tell this story? How were the voices of the characters Tina and Anders distinguished? What effects did the timing of their responses have on the characters' perspectives and your experience of the story?
2. Tina accepts Anders' suggestion to switch from sending letters to emailing after he wrote: "I have a proposal. Instead of the envelope and the stamp, we could attach our letters to an email. I will do this only if I can be sure you will treat them as carefully as you have treated the letters sent by post." Did you detect any changes in their correspondence and conversation after that?
3. Why do Tina and Anders repeatedly return to the topic of the Tollund Man? What does the Tollund Man represent to Tina and to Anders?
4. Did you know anything about the Tollund Man before you read this book? Did the character's discussions of him make you curious about his history?
5. *Anders tells Tina about a debate he has at work about making up names for the bog people in the museum (i.e., naming the Tollund Man "Knut"): "To give them names, said the marketing people, would make them seem more human. But, I said (and not only me, fortunately), to give them names would make them only human, rob them of their mystery." What do you think he means? Do you agree? Have you had a particularly memorable, powerful experience at a museum?
6. Tina writes to Anders that "The artifacts you study are what they are. They represent a moment in time. They have no scope for change; that is why you study them. That is why they are useful for telling us things we might otherwise never have known." Over the course of the novel, Tina sends Anders a feather, a piece of printed fabric, and a bear: Did these items "tell" Tina and Anders "things we might otherwise never have known"? In what ways do Tina and Anders use objects for understanding events, emotions, and each other?
7. How does memory and recollection shape the stories that Tina and Anders exchange with each other?
8. *We aren't told how old Anders and Tina are, but they are both grandparents. Anders tells Tina: "Our letters have meant so much to us because we have both arrived at the same point in our lives. More behind us than ahead of us. Paths chosen that define us. Enough time left to change." How does age affect the way these characters approach their relationship? How would their story differ if they were in their twenties, for instance? Discuss the ways in which Anders and Tina change over the course of the novel.
9. How did you feel about the end of the novel? Why might the author have created such ambiguity?