



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Bookshop Girl

by Sylvia Bishop

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The Joneses have just won the Great Montgomery Book Emporium in a contest, and it's every book lover's dream! The pull of a lever calls forth a room full of marvelous wonders—from the Room of Woodland Tales with its squirrels and mice, to the rocket ship in the Room of Space Adventures, and the aquarium ceiling in the Room of Ocean Tales.

But there is more to the Emporium than its thousands of books in extravagant displays. In fact, the previous owner is hiding something that could destroy absolutely everything for the Joneses. Property Jones has a whopper of a secret too—and it might just be the key to saving her family and their bookshop from the clutches of a nasty villain.

1. At the beginning of the story, we learn that Property was found and adopted by the Joneses. Does this fact affect Property's relationship with Netty and Michael at any points in the book? How does the makeup of this family play a significant role in the story's conflict?
2. How does Property's inability to read shape her understanding of the world? What kind of other strengths does Property have because she is illiterate?
3. How is the Book Emporium different than the White Hart shop?
4. What role does The Gunther play in the story? How does he help Property?
5. In moments of sadness, Property reminisces about the lost property cupboard at the White Hart book shop. Is there a familiar space at home that brings you comfort in times of sadness? How so?
6. Property wants to prove her loyalty to Netty and Michael after Eliot Pink has chided her for keeping her illiteracy a secret. What are some ways that Property proves her love and loyalty to Michael and Netty?
7. Eliot Pink says "If you people can't be bothered to pay attention, then someone smarter than you will cheat you, in the end" (p. 81). How do you suppose Eliot Pink regards himself compared to the Joneses and everybody else?
8. In chapter six, Montgomery asks Property and Michael to forgive him for handing down the shop's problems onto their family. Why do you think it was easier for Property to forgive Montgomery than it was for her brother, Michael?
9. If you were The Jones family, how else might you have altered the forgeries to get back at Eliot Pink and Mr. Gimble?
10. Property shudders at the thought of being like Eliot Pink when she grows up. How might she want to be different than Eliot?
11. How does Property overcome her personal challenges by the end of the book?
12. If you had a bookshop like the Great Montgomery Book Emporium, what kind of rooms would you want to put in your bookshop?



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