

A Man Called Ove: participant questions

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Whole-book spoilers. Optional prompts for adult discussion. Pass on any item without explaining why.

Book: A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman. Reference ISBN 9781476738024. Your edition / chapter notes:

Before full-book spoilers

Which small action first helped you picture Ove, before you knew much about his past? | What tone did you expect from the opening, and which early detail complicated that expectation?

Q01. When does a practical rule become a way for Ove to avoid an emotional question? Identify the point where the two roles part.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q02. Which moment lets you distinguish Ove's wish for order from a wish to control someone else? What would the other person say?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q03. How does a mundane task reveal something a direct conversation would have hidden? Follow the task from beginning to end.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q04. What does Parvaneh notice that other neighbors miss? Compare her way of responding with a more distant character's approach.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q05. How does the novel give Sonja a presence beyond Ove's account of missing her? Choose a detail rather than a general tribute.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q06. Where does accepting help cost Ove more than giving it? Discuss the different forms of power in those two positions.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q07. What changes when the narration leaves the present for Ove's past? Which present-day action gains a different meaning afterward?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q08. How do the comic scenes affect the weight of grief? Find one place where humor opens space and one where it feels uneasy.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q09. Does the neighborhood become a family, a duty or something less easy to name? Compare two relationships that resist one label.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q10. At the ending, which earlier routine carries a new meaning? Trace that change without calling all of Ove's old habits good.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q11. What remains unresolved about Ove's relation to other people? Would a tidier resolution have weakened the book's view of care?

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Q12. If another neighbor told the final part, what might they emphasize or leave out? Use an earlier scene to support your answer.

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: _____ Notes: _____

Source record: <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/A-Man-Called-Ove/Fredrik-Backman/9781476738024>.
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