

My Friends: facilitator notes

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Whole-book spoilers. Facilitation notes, not an answer key.

Opening lens

Fredrik Backman's *My Friends* connects a painting with the friendship behind it and a later viewer's life. A discussion can begin by separating what an artwork shows from the history someone needs in order to see it. The title belongs to several novels, so the author is an important part of the edition check.

Evidence method

Make a note about the painting before turning it into a symbol. Identify a visible detail, then compare it with a remembered event in the story. This keeps the artwork attached to the people around it and leaves room for a viewer to find meaning that its maker did not explicitly plan.

Minutes	Task	Book-specific starting point
0-5	Scope and pass option	Which detail in the early account of the painting drew your attention before its history was explained?
5-15	Opening reaction	What did the movement between past and present make you curious to learn first?
15-30	People and relationships	How does the seaside setting shape the meaning of escape or belonging? Keep the answer tied to an image or movement in the text.
30-45	Narrative choices	Where does remembering someone risk simplifying them? Find a passage that lets a person remain difficult or contradictory.
45-55	The ending	Which loss can art make visible without repairing it? Explain how the novel holds those two ideas together.

Minutes	Task	Book-specific starting point
55-60	One remaining question	End by returning to the painting's smallest human detail. Ask whether the group now sees the same image differently, and what kind of knowledge caused the change.

Group 1 chapter cue

Bring an early passage about the painting or its viewer.

Group 2 chapter cue

Choose a chapter centered on the young friends together.

Group 3 chapter cue

Use a late passage where memory changes the meaning of a visible detail.

Closing direction

End by returning to the painting's smallest human detail. Ask whether the group now sees the same image differently, and what kind of knowledge caused the change.

Edition and scope note

This pack is for *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman. It is not a guide to another author's novel with that title. The image used on this page is generic reading context, not a reproduction of the fictional painting.

Source

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/My-Friends/Fredrik-Backman/9781982112837> | *My Friends* | Fredrik Backman | ISBN 9781982112837