

# My Friends: participant questions

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

Book: My Friends by Fredrik Backman. Reference ISBN 9781982112837. Your edition / chapter notes:

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## Before full-book spoilers

Which detail in the early account of the painting drew your attention before its history was explained? | What did the movement between past and present make you curious to learn first?

**Q01. How does Louisa's way of seeing the painting differ from a casual viewer's? What kind of attention creates that difference?**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q02. What does friendship make possible for the young people that individual talent alone would not? Identify a specific shared action.**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q03. Where does humor protect the friends, and where does it reveal what they are unable to say directly? Compare the two uses.**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q04. How does the seaside setting shape the meaning of escape or belonging? Keep the answer tied to an image or movement in the text.**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q05. Which friend's contribution would be easiest to overlook in a story focused only on the artist? What makes that contribution matter?**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q06. How does time change an account of loyalty? Compare what a young character needs with what a later narrator remembers.**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q07. What does the book leave outside the frame of the painting? Does the missing history weaken or deepen the artwork's effect?**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q08. Where does remembering someone risk simplifying them? Find a passage that lets a person remain difficult or contradictory.**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q09. How do a gift and an inheritance differ in the story? Consider what each asks of the person receiving it.**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q10. At the ending, does the painting preserve a finished past or continue to change a life? What final detail supports your reading?**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q11. Which loss can art make visible without repairing it? Explain how the novel holds those two ideas together.**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q12. If the painting were described by another character, which detail might move to the center? Use the friendships to explain the change.**

Chapter or letter cue in my edition: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Source record: <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/My-Friends/Fredrik-Backman/9781982112837>.  
Original prompts; no affiliate links. Version 1.0, 15 October 2026.