

book club questions

A MAN CALLED OVE

- Describe the character of Ove and how you envision him.
- What positive and negative characteristics does Ove have?
- What has contributed to Ove's pessimistic mindset generally?
- Why do you think Ove has such an ongoing battle with the modern world in particular?
- Why does Ove confront life in such controlled, ritualistic ways?
- Can you identify with any of Ove's gripes with life?
- How does Ove view himself?
- Discuss Ove's relationship with Sonja.
- What do you think Sonja saw in Ove?
- Do you agree with Sonja that "loving someone is like moving into a house"?
- How may Ove be different if he were a father?
- Describe Ove's relationship with his own father.
- What made Ove hate "men in white shirts"?
- How did Ove change after his wife died?
- How does Ove cope with his grief?
- Does Ove live more in the past, present, or future?
- What is the significance of the specific cars Ove and Rune drive?
- Describe Parvaneh.
- What made Ove able to connect with the cat and with Parvaneh?
- Discuss the significance of "the Lanky One."
- Are Ove and Parvaneh "likely" or "unlikely" friends?
- Why does Ove want to commit suicide?

- What do you make of Ove's failed suicide attempts?
- How do Ove and Parvaneh change over time?
- What did Ove contribute to Parvaneh and visa versa?
- Discuss the concept of masculinity in A Man Called Ove.
- How would this novel be different if Ove were a woman?
- Did your opinion of Ove change over the course of the novel?
- Did Ove's life story surprise you?
- How does Ove express emotion?
- Why do you think Backman wrote this story in a non-chronological format, and do you agree with his choice?
- Discuss the role of community in the novel.
- A Man Called Ove takes place in Sweden. Does it resonate where you live?
- Did the ending surprise you?
- Discuss the irony in Ove's death.
- What does the turnout at Ove's funeral symbolize?
- Do you know anyone like Ove in real life?
- Did you learn any lessons from A Man Called Ove to apply in your own life?
- What is Ove's legacy?
- Do you consider A Man Called Ove to be a happy or sad book?

