

MERRY Discussion Questions

1. Merry Bingham decides to sell her treasured edition of *A Christmas Carol* to take her family to London. What do you think of this decision? Would you have made the same choice or a different one?
2. What was your most memorable trip or vacation? Do you find you remember vacations better when things go right or wrong?
3. With which of Merry's three children did you feel most sympathetic toward? Why?
4. What five words would you use to describe Merry as a character? Have you ever known someone like her?
5. Many of the characters in this novel are dealing with guilt and shame. What are their different coping strategies? Who do you think handles it most effectively?
6. What does the ghost of Charles Dickens add to the novel? What do you think the author's intention was in adding a dash of magic to an otherwise real-world setting? Or is the magic—and Dickens—all in Merry's mind? Have you ever experienced moments of magic in your own life?
7. Building on question number six, do you believe Leroy the dog actually speaks to Merry? Why or why not?
8. Are you an eldest, youngest, middle, or only child? Do you have any personal experience with adoption (international or otherwise)? How has your family structure shaped your life?
9. Merry helps people collect books. Do you collect anything? Why do you think so many people find the idea of collecting so compelling?
10. Merry loves the Christmas holiday season. What is your favorite holiday and why?