



The Grandest Book Shop in the World by Ameila Mellor  
Book Club Discussion Guide

Book Discussion Guide

1. What did you like about the book? What caught your attention?
2. How did you experience the book? Were you immediately drawn in, or did it take some time?
3. What do you think the themes of the book are? How do the characters get these across?
4. What parts of the book stood out to you?
5. Who was your favourite character in the book and why?
6. Who in this book would you most like to meet? What would you ask or say?
7. Secrecy and deception occur between characters throughout the book – is there ever a ‘right’ time to lie? When/why?
8. How did the relationship between members of the Cole family change over the course of the story?
9. What past influences are shaping the actions of Pearl and Vally in the story?
10. How do you think bookshops in the Victorian era compared to today?
11. Do you remember the first bookshop you visited? It could be a big-name bookshop, or it could be the local newsagent which also sold books. What are the memories which stand out for you about this bookshop?



12. How important is the setting & time period to the story? How would it have played out differently in a different setting? What about a different time period?
13. In Chapter 22, Pearl sees a vision of her home city and learns some of her father's visions for the future have come true. Discuss those things that E.W Cole predicted would happen, as well as those things that have occurred that he couldn't have even imagined.
14. Think about 150 years from now – what kind of future would you like to see for your great-great-great grandchildren? What will people wear? What technology will exist? What issues from now will have been solved?
15. The book is a blend of historical fact and creative fiction. Which elements of the Book Arcade do you think are real or imagined? Can you imagine a Book Arcade like Cole's existing today? Why/why not? (*This [article](#) provides insight into the amazing attractions that existed at real book store*)
16. Is there a particular passage in the book that strikes you as profound or interesting/Share a favorite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out?
17. What did you think of the ending of the book? Were all your questions answered?

Additional resources:

[Teacher's guide](#)