

Discussion Questions for *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson

(Some questions taken or adapted from http://www.litlovers.com/guide_major_pettigrews_last.html)

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. Did you find the characters believable? Which of the characters did you like the most? Which did you dislike?
3. Did you find the dialog in the story realistic?
4. What did you think of the plot line development? How credible did the author make the plot? Did the plot take turns you did not expect, or did you find it predictable?
5. Major Pettigrew and Mrs. Ali have been acquainted with one another for some time. What is it about the moment when he opens the door to her at the beginning of the book that causes him to start to fall in love with her?
6. How would you describe Major Pettigrew? In what way do we see him as “typically English”?
7. Reading and a love of books play a defining role in how we are to perceive characters in this book. What did you observe about the reading habits of George, Roger, Mrs. Ali, and Mr. Pettigrew?
8. How does Helen Simonson portray Americans in this novel? Is it a fair depiction?
9. How are outsiders treated in this village? Who are considered outsiders?
10. Small mindedness is an underlying motif in this book. Who in the novel is small-minded? How does this parochialism lead to misunderstanding?
11. Has anyone had any experiences that relate to places or experiences in the book?
12. Any comments about the way the book ended?
13. Are there questions you would like to ask?